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JPRS L/8462

17 May 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
(FOUO 21/79)

WORLD

WIDE

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17 May 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES DRUG COMMISSION REPORT DELAYED UNTIL 10 JUNE

Canberra THE TIMES in English 20 Mar 79 p 8

[Text]

SYDNEY: The long-awaited report of the NSW Royal Commission into Drugs has been delayed three months.

State Government officials said yesterday that Mr Justice Woodward would be given until June 10 to complete the report which is expected to disclose some sensational findings.

An official announcement of the extension is expected after the decision is ratified by the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler.

The Royal Commission, which opened in August, 1977, was to have been completed by the end of last year.

An earlier three months extension was approved late last year and the Premier, Mr Neville Wran, hoped to table the report in Parliament at the end of this month.

It is understood that moves to set up a joint NSW-Commonwealth police drugs "task force" have led to the further delay.

Mr Justice Woodward is believed to want the "task force" operating by the time the report is released.

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AUSTRALIA

WEST AUSTRALIAN PREMIER ACCUSED OF CYNICISM ON DRUG ISSUE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Mar 79 p 37

[Text] Labor's spokesman on health, Mr J. J. Harman (Maylands), yesterday accused the Premier, Sir Charles Court, of cynical opportunism over the marihuana issue.

He said that Sir Charles's comments on the ALP's marihuana decision were hypocritical and inaccurate.

Sir Charles said on Monday that despite its latest decision, the Labor Party was still committed to "going soft" on drugs.

He said that the net result of Labor's special State conference was to decide on a big reduction in penalties for the use or possession of marihuana.

Mr Harman said the ALP had long held that people using drugs should be treated normally and rehabilitated, not locked up as criminals. Most Australians shared this view.

President Carter had put the position well when he said he would continue to discourage the use of marihuana but thought that penalties that branded otherwise law-abiding people as criminals for life were neither an effective nor appropriate deterrent.

"This is the ALP's view," Mr Harman said. "Our policy is to punish the pushers and help the users."

"HYPOCRITICAL"

Sir Charles was being hypocritical in accusing the ALP of going soft on drugs while the WA Government presided over the continued widespread use of the two most damaging drugs in Australia — alcohol and nicotine.

The Senate standing committee on social welfare had reported that alcohol was a major factor in the deaths of 30,000 Australians in the past 10 years, and that tobacco contributed to the deaths of nearly 12,000 Australians each year through heart and lung disease.

If Sir Charles was genuine in his expressed concern about the drug problem, he need look no further.

He should say what the Government was doing to combat the effects of alcohol and tobacco abuse.

If Sir Charles's interest went further than political point-scoring he would find out why young people were turning to soft drugs like marihuana and the deadly hard drugs like heroin.

Mr Harman said: "He will find that for many of them drugs represent an escape from the misery or disappointment of broken homes, poor educational opportunities, life on or near the poverty line and, above all, of the enforced idleness and despair of not being able to get a job."

"The people such as Sir Charles who are in charge of our economic system are the guilty ones."

"The pushers, who are merely pursuing to its logical conclusion the free-enterprise system that Sir Charles espouses so strongly, are the guilty ones."

"The ALP policy is aimed at sheeting home responsibility to the guilty, not to the victims."

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AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY POLICE REPORTED TO IGNORE PRO-MARIHUANA MEETINGS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Mar 79 p 3

[Article by Bill West]

[Text]

APART from a heavy scent of marijuana the atmosphere at Sydney's Star Theatre yesterday was little different from the average rock concert.

Matches flared continuously in the dark as members of the audience lit up marijuana cigarettes. In the foyer a large collection of T-shirts, badges and stickers urging the legalisation of grass was on sale while outside posters advertised a marijuana benefit concert.

Organisers warned those present to keep their dope concealed in case there were any unwelcome intrusions by the law. But there was little cause for fear.

Despite the heavy penalties for smoking and possession of

the drug in NSW police were noticeably absent.

The situation was similar to that in Hyde Park the previous day which kicked off 48 hours of "activities related to a petition calling for marijuana law reform".

About 2000 people gathered to protest, "grass" was given away to anyone who felt like a smoke and half a kilogram of the drug - sufficient to attract a charge and possibly a conviction for trafficking - was raffled.

The marijuana petition organisation said it had gathered 70,000 signatures in support of the "cause".

The show took on an air of respectability when Senator Michael Tate (A.L.P., Tas.) and Sydney City Council aldermen Mr Tony Reeves and Mr Robert Tickener got up to speak. Police occupied their time booking people for parking offences.

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AUSTRALIA

SENATOR POINTS OUT DANGERS OF DRUG INQUIRY PHONE TAPPING

Canberra THE TIMES in English 21 Mar 79 p 8

[Text]

The number of Australians whose privacy would be invaded under new Federal drug-investigation powers of telephone tapping and bugging would be "quite staggering", Senator Evans (Lab, Vic), said in a statement issued yesterday.

He said that the then Attorney-General, Mr Justice Murphy, had said in 1973 that an average of 100 telephone taps were authorised for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation each year.

With taps lasting up to six months, this would mean up to 12,000 people would have had 68,000 conversations monitored each year, based on US experience.

The new powers now being legis-

lated would greatly increase the incidence of telephone tapping.

"Even with ASIO at its most paranoid, there are at any one time many more drug suspects than suspected subversives", he said.

"The number of Australians whose privacy could be invaded each year is quite staggering".

The Government had ignored Australian Law Reform Commission recommendations for restrictions on powers of telephone tapping or bugging for any drug investigation.

These were that tapping powers should only be authorised by a Supreme Court judge to investigate a very serious offence when all other methods had failed.

The commission had also said the authorisation should specifically state persons, places and offences subject to surveillance and should be valid for no more than 10 days.

"The exercise of these powers on ministerial authority alone is not good enough in an area as sensitive and dangerous as this", he said.

"The power to tap telephones and install listening devices has frightening implications for personal privacy and should at least be subject to strict judicial control".

Until now telephones could only be tapped for national security reasons and the power was unavailable for investigations of even the most serious crimes.

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AUSTRALIA

WEST AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY REVERSES STAND ON MARIHUANA

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Mar 79 p 1

[Text] The WA branch of the Australian Labor Party yesterday reversed an earlier policy decision favouring the legalisation of marihuana.

A special State conference attended by about 250 delegates adopted a policy calling for more research into drug abuse and substantial cuts in penalties for possession and use of small quantities of marihuana.

The motion from the party's administrative committee was passed overwhelmingly on the voices after a lively debate.

The conference, from which the news media was excluded, decided that a State Labor government would:

Urge continued research into the social and psychological conditions which lead to the use of hallucinogens, narcotics, stimulants and alcohol in an endeavor to identify factors which lead to dependence, and to design and implement policies to minimise or eliminate these factors. [Sentence as published.]

Place greater emphasis on the detection and prosecution of criminal elements which profit from the exploitation of drugs.

'Hard' Drugs

The policy lays stress on differentiating between the supply of "soft" drugs like marihuana and "hard" drugs like heroin.

It would effect a substantial reduction of penalties for the personal use or possession of marihuana while maintaining penalties for the distribution of illegal drugs.

The conference adopted an amendment moved by Mr R. Hetherington (East Metropolitan) to rescind the prohibition on marihuana's being used for medical treatment.

(Last year a man claimed that smoking marihuana helped reduce his epileptic attacks, but was refused permission to use the drug for medicinal purposes.)

The WA Opposition Leader, Mr Davies, said he was delighted that the conference had changed the policy by such an overwhelming majority.

He had feared that the earlier decision to legalise marihuana could have had a serious effect on the party's electoral chances in 1980.

Problems

The party's problems with the marihuana issue began with a motion for last year's State conference from the Kellerberrin branch "That production, distribution and use of marihuana be legalised and placed under the control of an appropriate authority."

But it was one of many items not reached during the five-day conference.

A special meeting of the State executive called to consider outstanding conference business discussed the Kellerberrin motion on February 5 and it was passed after three proposed amendments were defeated.

Only 74 of the 150 delegates were present at that meeting. Among those absent were Mr Davies and the secretary, Mr. R. F. McMullan.

The executive's decision had provoked strong opposition in and outside the ALP.

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AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT ALLEGED TO COVER UP ACTIVITIES OF DRUG TRAFFICKER

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Mar 79 p 3

[Article by Joe Begley]

[Text]

AN allegation that a cousin of former Prime Minister Sir William McMahon is involved in drug trafficking on the Gold Coast was yesterday referred to the privileges committee of the Queensland Parliament.

The allegation was contained in a series of questions in Parliament by Labor frontbencher Mr Kev Hooper.

He asked the Minister for Police, Mr Camm, to provide Parliament with the complete dossier on the proprietor of the Penthouse nightclub at Surfers Paradise, Mr Robert Walder.

He said Mr Walder was a candidate in this Saturday's Gold Coast City Council elections.

Mr Hooper also claimed there had been a police and government cover-up of Mr Walder's alleged drug trafficking.

Mr Hooper asked Mr Camm: "Will the minister also answer allegations that police action against Mr Walder has been curtailed because certain high-ranking members of the Gold Coast CIB are prominent supporters of the Government coalition party in the area . . . Mr Walder also being an active financial supporter of this Government?"

He then asked the Minister for Local Government, Mr Hinze: "Is the minister aware that Mr Robert Walder, who also happens to be a cousin of the former Prime Minister, Sir William McMahon, has been and is an active supporter for a prominent Liberal member on the Gold Coast?"

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AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA TO AID THAILAND IN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Mar 79 p 2

[Text]

THE Federal Government is planning a major equipment project to strengthen Thai narcotics agencies.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peacock, yesterday warned Australians not to become involved in the illicit drug trade overseas.

As far as the Government is concerned, Australians caught illegally trading in drugs will have to bear the consequences. In Thailand, that would mean death by machinegun.

Mr Peacock was answering a question in the House of Representatives.

He said Australia was already training Thai drug enforcement officers in Australia and had provided Thailand with some communications equipment.

It intended to equip Thai forces with the latest technology. The extent of the program has not yet been decided.

Mr Peacock said Australia was also contributing \$1 million over the next three years to the United Nations Agency to Combat Drug Abuse, which was doing a great deal of work in South-East Asia.

He said he had repeatedly warned Australians that they would be subject to the laws of the countries they visited.

Thailand had recently decided to introduce a mandatory death penalty for drug-trafficking.

Although the Government was required under international conventions to assist

Australians travelling abroad, people involved in drug trafficking "will just have to bear the consequences of their own behavior."

Mr Peacock said 18 Australians were already in Thai jails on drug charges.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs was working closely with the Australian Federal

Narcotics Bureau to improve the working relationship between drug

authorities in the two countries.

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AUSTRALIA

OFFICIALS SCORE PRESS ARTICLE ON CHILDREN'S USE OF MARIHUANA

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Mar 79 p 5

[Text] An article on the use of marijuana by children was being passed around Sydney primary schools and causing considerable concern among teachers and parents, Parliament was told yesterday.

The Government Whip, Senator Peter Baume, said the article, published in the Sydney Sun-Herald on March 25, detailed the ways marijuana could be and was being used by children.

He said the Fairfax newspaper chain, which publishes the Sun-Herald, was generally known as socially concerned and responsible.

But he added: "Can the minister indicate whether the publication of this kind of article is properly a matter to be deplored and can he further indicate under what circumstances the Government would relate the appearance of articles like this to the responsibilities of a group which is a licensee in the electronic media?"

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Chaney, representing the Minister for Telecommunications, Mr Staley, said he had not seen the article.

But he said if it was as Senator Baume described, it was to be deplored.

"It's often difficult to draw the line between disseminating information and providing information which is going to damage those who receive it," he said.

"I'm not aware of any attempt to link the publications of newspaper proprietors to their responsibilities under the Broadcasting and Television Act, and that aspect I'll refer to my colleague, Mr Staley."

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AUSTRALIA

TURKISH IMMIGRANT ARRESTED ON HEROIN SMUGGLING CHARGES

Melbourne THE AGE in English 20 Mar 79 p 14

[Text]

A man was remanded in custody yesterday on a charge of possessing and importing heroin allegedly worth \$800,000.

Ethem Koc, 35, bus driver, of Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, appeared in Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

Federal narcotics agent Bernard Francis Hansell told the court Koc migrated from Turkey in 1971. His eldest son was being educated there.

Hansell said Koc was found last Saturday to be carrying 600 grams or 21 ounces of uncut heroin in chamois shoulder pads inside his coat. The heroin was worth \$200,000 as it was, but would have a street value of \$800,000 if placed in capsules.

Hansell said it was possible Koc was a courier. Narcotics Bureau experience showed that drug couriers given bail often did not report, and in some cases were not seen again.

Hansell said Koc had a wife and child in Australia. He was a bus driver with the Tramways Board, and lived in a Housing Commission flat.

Mr. Geoff Hoare, SM, remanded Koc without bail to March 27, and refused an application by his lawyer that Koc should not be interviewed by narcotics agents in the absence of his legal advisers.

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AUSTRALIA

'RINGLEADERS' IN HEROIN DISTRIBUTION CHAIN JAILED

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 17 Mar 79 p 13

[Text] A married couple were gaoled for 12 years yesterday for importing heroin.

A Supreme Court judge said that they had been the ringleaders in a distribution chain.

Budianto Widodo (28), unemployed labourer, and Pauline Sharon Widodo (23), domestic, both of Kimberley Road, Hillarys, pleaded guilty in February to importing the heroin between August and December last year.

Pauline Widodo also pleaded guilty to possessing 2.7 grams of heroin in December and to supplying the drug between August and December.

Mr Justice Lavan said that the Widodos had admitted being actively engaged in importing heroin through a ship's crew member.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Both had been unemployed for a substantial period before their arrest in December but had bank accounts in various names totalling \$36,900.

The exact amount of heroin involved was not known.

Pauline Widodo had told detectives that she and her husband imported 600 grams. She had later revised this to 100 grams.

But the amount of money involved and the fact that she offered 100-gram lots at a discount indicated that it was greatly in excess of this, the judge said.

Pauline Widodo had claimed most of the responsibility for importing and selling the heroin but she accepted that this occurred only because of her husband's difficulty with the English language.

HEAVILY ADDICTED

The Widodos were both heavily addicted to heroin and said that they had imported it for their own use.

The Widodos said that they had started selling the heroin because they thought it would prove fatal if they used it all themselves.

This reason seemed most unlikely, the judge said.

The offences were most serious because of heroin's far-reaching and devastating effect.

Mr Justin Lavan sentenced the Widodos to 12 years' gaol each on the importation charge and set a minimum non-parole period of seven years.

Pauline Widodo was also sentenced to five years for possessing more than the traffickable quantity of heroin and another five years for dealing in the drug.

Mr Justine Lavan said that she had supplied heroin to a person called Mullins 'for a taste' and then sold him some of the drug.

Both sentences were made concurrent with the first sentence.

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AUSTRALIA

CHAMPION SURFER CHARGED WITH MARIHUANA CULTIVATION

Arrest at Sydney Airport

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Mar 79 p 1

[Excerpts] A former world champion surfer, Robert Harold (Nat) Young, was charged last night over a crop of marihuana estimated to have a street value of \$3 million.

The crop was found on a property at Nymboida, 60 kilometres south-west of Grafton.

Young, 32, was arrested by Commonwealth Police at Sydney airport about midday yesterday.

He was questioned for several hours by the NSW Drug Squad before being charged at Darlinghurst police station about 9 p.m.

Young was charged with having permitted Indian hemp to be grown on premises he owns.

Grafton police raided the property on February 28. Two men were arrested.

The police said they found 1,800 marihuana plants in a fenced area surrounded by heavily timbered country.

They alleged that a quantity of marihuana was found drying in a shed on the property. Several containers of seeds ready for planting were near by.

In 1966 Young won the world surfing championships in San Diego.

Released on Bail

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 20 Mar 79 p 12

[Excerpts] The former world champion surfer Robert (Nat) Young, 31, was allowed \$1,000 bail to fly to the United States to promote his latest film

when he appeared on a drug charge at Central Court of Petty sessions yesterday.

The court was told that Young, a film producer, was arrested at Sydney Airport on Sunday as he was to leave for Los Angeles to promote the film Fall Line, which was subsidised by the Australian Film Commission.

Young, of Ocean Road, Palm Beach, was charged before Mr D. Leo, SM, with allowing premises he owned at Old Glen Innes Road, Nymboida, to be used for the cultivation of Indian hemp, between February 3 and February 19.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant Barbara Galvin, asked that the matters be adjourned to Grafton Court of Petty Sessions to be heard on June 25.

Mr. I. Strathdee, for Young, told the court that the Australian Film Commission had subsidised Fall Line, which had taken Young 4 1/2 years to complete.

It was imperative for Young to be in Los Angeles as soon as possible. The film was being considered for entry in the Cannes Film Festival.

Mr Strathdee said that in a record of interview taken by police Young denied involvement in the growing of marihuana at Nymboida.

In Grafton Court of Petty Sessions, Douglas Thomas Murray, 26, of Newcastle, and James Alexander McInnes, 27, of Nymboida, appeared yesterday for the third time on drug charges.

Both have been charged with supplying and cultivating Indian hemp at Nymboida.

The magistrate, Mr M Doring, adjourned the hearing until June 25.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SMUGGLING CONVICTION--A 23-year-old heroin addict brought heroin through Customs at Perth Airport concealed in his rectum, the East Perth Court was told yesterday. Paul William Sharp, of Semaphore Park, Adelaide, pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited import. Magistrate T. R. McGuigan convicted Sharp and placed him on a \$500 three-year bond on condition that he continues with a drug-addiction treatment programme. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Mar 79 p 23]

HEROIN SMUGGLER JAILED--A New Zealander was sentenced yesterday to seven years jail for having imported 25.3 grams of heroin with an alleged street value of about \$10,000. Garth Alexander Banks, 27, a jewellery and clothing importer, who gave his address as Coopers Shoot, Byron Bay, NSW, pleaded guilty to the charge before Judge Byrne in the County Court at Geelong. The Crown alleged Banks smuggled the drug through Tullamarine Airport on Christmas eve. Banks told the court he had bought the heroin in Penang, packed it in condoms and swallowed it. Banks and another man were arrested at a Belmont Geelong motel on December 29. The court was told 52.1 grammes of heroin and about \$5000 cash were seized. The other man arrested, Peter Charles Daniels, surfboard shaper, of Durban, South Africa, disappeared soon after he was released on \$8000 bail. Banks said he had spent 12 months out of the past 2 1/2 years travelling in South-East Asia and Hawaii conducting his import business. During that time he had become heavily addicted to heroin and had returned to Australia with the drug to sustain his habit. He denied he had imported the drug to sell commercially. [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Mar 79 p 5]

\$30,000 HEROIN FIND--Police uniforms, shotguns and pistols and about \$30,000 worth of heroin were found during a raid on a Noble Park house on Monday. Homicide detectives went to the house in Pascoe Street about 6 pm, looking for three men in relation to another matter. The uniforms were stolen from the Glenhuntly police station on Friday. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Mar 79 p 3]

RECORD DRUG HAUL--Police uncovered a \$500,000 cache of heroin and other drugs in South Australia's biggest haul of narcotics on Friday. They charged an Adelaide man, Glen William Harris, with possession under the Customs Act and he later appeared in Port Adelaide Magistrates Court. Harris was refused bail and the case was adjourned until April 5. The court was told on Friday that Harris, who lived at Athelstone, had been arrested with 540.4 grams of heroin in his possession. Mr. Walter Mesiti, prosecuting, said Harris also had 241 grams of cannabis oil, about 100 grams of cannabis resin, Thai buddha sticks and cannabis. The drugs including the heroin were worth \$500,000, he said. Harris also had \$9383 in cash when arrested. Mr Mesiti said two shotguns, two pistols, a set of scales and syringes had also been found. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 24-25 Mar 79 p 2]

CSO: 5300

BURMA

BRIEFS

DRUG PUSHERS NABBED--Mandalay, 12 April--Police and Ward People's Councillors seized two penicillin bottles and a cigarette filled with heroin with a street value of K 800 from a house in Thiri Haymar Quarter in South-West Township here recently and arrested nine persons who reportedly came to buy heroin from the house. Police led by Station Commander U Khin Maung Maung Lwin and Ward People's Councillors raided the house of U Kyin Hlaing north of Eindawyar Pagoda and seized the heroin. Police also confiscated a Land Rover driven by Maung Win Tin of No 578 West Aungnan Yeiktha Quarter who reportedly brought the heroin. Maung Win Win; Khin Maung Thaung, a clerk from the Virginia Tobacco Curing Plant in Okkan Village; Tin Shwe of Ohdan Ward; Hla Myat Kyaw and Maung Kyaw Hla of Ward No 1, Kyauktada Township, Rangoon; Maung Win and Maung Nyo of Thiri Haymar Quarter; Tin Maung Oo of Kungyan Quarter; and Aye Thaung of 25th Street, Mandalay found at the house were arrested and booked under Sections 6 (b) (possession), 10 (b) (sale), 11 (abetment) and 14 (d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 18 Apr 79 p 1]

KUTKAI TOWNSHIP POPPIES DESTROYED--Kutkai, 7 Apr--Under the guidance of the Kutkai township party unit and people's council, departments concerned made concerted efforts to raze a total of 270 acres of poppy plantations in the township in 1978-79 [fiscal] year. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 17 Apr 79 p 4 BK]

SEIZURE OF OPIUM, GUN--Keng Tung, 9 Apr--Acting on a tipoff, personnel from the Keng Tung township police force with guidance from the township party unit and people's council searched for opium on 7 April. During their search the police found 1 carbine and 32,800 kyats from Kya Khu, alias Sai Thaung, and 8 packets of opium weighing 19.8 viss [1 viss = 3.6 pounds] from Aik Khun, Aik Yi Paung and Ngaik Ngauk. Legal actions has been taken against these persons. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 17 Apr 79 p 4 BK]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DOCTOR HOLDS OUT HOPE FOR ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 30 Mar 79 p 16

[Text]



Dr Wen

Dr Wen

The former head of an acupuncture clinic for treating drug addicts hopes that a report to be published soon by the United States National Institute on Drug Abuse will help change the Government's mind and get the clinic reopened.

Dr Wen Hsiang-lai told a lunch meeting of the Y's Men's Club of Hongkong yesterday that he has corrected the report's final text and sent it back to the US.

He expects it to be published soon.

A pilot scheme for an outpatient clinic to detoxify heroine addicts by acupuncture and electrical stimulation (AES) was set up in July 1977 at Tung Wah Hospital, financed by NIDA and sponsored by the Hongkong Government.

When the Government announced the clinic's closure in December, it caused some controversy.

"The NIDA project study was to take one year and a total of 300 cases were to be treated, on a voluntary basis," he said.

The treatment involved the insertion of an acupuncture needle into the lobe of the patient's ear and a very low voltage electrical current was then passed through it.

This helped to suppress painful withdrawal symptoms.

The treatment lasted 14 days.

"On the year's finding, I can say AES is comparable to any other form of treatment in detoxification."

"Of the 300 cases, 77 completed the entire 14-day treatment, 30 of whom were found to be free of opiates as proven by urine test."

"That is, 10 per cent of the patients were detoxified on an out-patient basis."

Mehtadone treatment promoted by the Government does not cure the addicts because it aims to keep them on a low dose of the drug for the rest of their lives, he said.

"We are talking in terms of curing 10 per cent of patients attended the clinic in 14 days."

"Just imagine how many will be cured in a year," Dr Wen said.

He also said that when the NIDA project ended last July, the Government suggested extending it for another six months.

"We even employed two more social workers to monitor the after care of the ex-addicts for a two-year period."

"I personally believe that the Government axed the clinic because of the small number of patients involved, as compared to the large amount of money in its running."

He felt that it is ironic that Hongkong, having pioneered the treatment, has been left without its benefits while other countries, such as the United States, Canada, England, France and Pakistan, have taken up the practice.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

CUSTOMS MEN HAVE A NOSE FOR TROUBLE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Apr 79 p 8

[Text] Baggage inspectors at the airport have had to become alert to increasingly clever methods of drug-smuggling. Besides using old methods such as taping drugs to the body or hiding them in suitcases with false bottoms, drug traffickers have concealed them inside hollow pumpkins, fruit tins, shoes and between the corrugated walls of cardboard boxes.

One particularly ingenious method was discovered last year, when two damp towels impregnated with heroin were found in the luggage of two Thai couples travelling on the same flight from Bangkok.

"In fact, our work is a continuing battle of wits against smugglers," said Superintendent H. L. Kwong, who has been working in the airport division of the Customs and Excise Service since 1975.

With the vast movements of passengers to and from Hongkong through the airport — the current daily average is more than 14,500 — it is virtually impossible to search every passenger thoroughly.

"A customs officer therefore must keep himself fully alert to every small and unusual point that passes under his nose.

"In the case of the hollow pumpkin, the inspecting officer became suspicious when

he picked it up — the pumpkin unexpectedly weighed very little."

Supt Kwong explained that, following careful inspection, a layer of wax was found at the bottom of the pumpkin and underneath were cuts and scratches.

The impregnated towel trick was discovered when a customs officer rubbed one of the towels and saw white powder fall off.

Supt Kwong said the behaviour of a passenger is always an important clue.

In some cases, a casual approach to the drug courier might make him nervous and betray him.

If a passenger is suspected of concealing drugs on his body, he is taken into a private room for a body search.

The two body-search teams, consisting of two male and two female officers, conduct about 1,300 searches a month.

"In order to confuse enforcement agencies, drugs exported from suspect ports to Hongkong in recent years have been routed via other places not previously known to be source countries," said Supt Kwong.

Two returning residents were arrested at the airport on their return from Bangkok via Taiwan and Seoul last May with drugs in their luggage.

On the illicit export of drugs from Hongkong, Supt Kwong said the quantity of opiate drugs leaving Hongkong has remained minimal in the past few years.

"Effective law enforcement action, coupled with a dramatic rise in the prices of drug, have discouraged overseas traffickers from seeking supplies in Hongkong.

"It is now generally accepted by other countries that Hongkong is no longer a major drug exporting country," he said.

Last year, the airport division made 49 drug seizures and arrested 44 people.

The 124 kilograms of drugs seized included prepared opium (58.87 kg), raw opium (16.6 kg), heroin (28.5 kg), morphine (19.26 kg), cannabis (0.11 kg) and methyl amphetamine hydrochloride (1 kg).

The retail value of the drugs amounted to about \$14 million.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

CUSTOMS SMASHES DRUGS SYNDICATE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 6 Apr 79 p 1

[Text] Customs officers have smashed a drugs syndicate that had been exporting amphetamines to Japan.

Five pounds of the drugs were seized in a series of raids over the past two days.

Officers said the drugs are worth \$15 million on the Japanese market, although the local price is just a fraction of that.

Three men and a woman arrested in connection with the seizure were last night assisting officers with their investigations.

The syndicate had been operating for two years, officers said.

They added that they are trying to find out whether the drugs were imported from another country or manufactured locally.

Officers said the seizure was made following the arrest of a man and a woman at Kai Tak on Wednesday afternoon.

About four pounds of the drug were seized from the couple who were to fly to Tokyo.

Following inquiries, a series of raids were made in the New Territories, Tsz Wan Shan, Tsimshatsui and Chi Fu Fa Yuen in Pokfulam.

Five pounds of amphetamines were found in a flat in Chi Fu Fa Yuen and the two occupants were arrested.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

THREE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS HELD IN WAR ON DRUGS

Part of General Crackdown

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Apr 79 p 8

[Excerpt]

A war on marijuana is currently being waged by detectives from the Narcotics Bureau.

A senior officer said yesterday they have noticed an increasing trend in the trafficking and abuse of the drug and are particularly interested in the big-time suppliers.

He explained that a stick of cannabis, purchased in Bangkok for \$1 to \$2, could fetch as much as \$50 on the open Hongkong market.

And, it is these lucrative returns that are encouraging the groups now being probed by detectives.

He stressed, however, that their attention is aimed more at the trafficker than the consumer.

"But it is through the user that we are able to trace the supplier," he added.

So far this month, the crackdown has resulted in nine arrests, with charges ranging from possession of the drug to keeping apparatus for its packaging and distribution.

Their first arrest was at Kai Tak last week when a quantity of cannabis was found on a young traveller who was in transit to Japan.

Police said the drugs were found hidden in a cassette radio and speakers. He has since been charged.

Shortly after detectives swooped on a Causeway Bay flat where they found apparatus used for the packaging and distribution of cannabis.

Three young people were arrested and were subsequently charged.

And it was from these raids that police were able to

piece together information which led to the arrests at the weekend of three Hongkong International School students for allegedly possessing the drug.

Detectives had also been tipped off that some of the 37 students, returning from a week's tour of Thailand, could be smuggling in sticks of cannabis.

Police, however, believe that the three are not part of an organised syndicate.

The chairman of the International School Board, the Rev Paul Tucharat, told the SCM Post yesterday that the board would be meeting to discuss the arrests.

Students Admit Having Drugs

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Apr 79 pp 1, 7

[Article by S. K. Khan]

[Text]

Three teenage students yesterday pleaded guilty to possession of dangerous drugs.

Mr R. S. Sanders at San Po Kong Court deferred sentencing them for a week pending probation officers' reports.

The three are Tracy Denise Hemphill (18) and David Kevin Kwok (18), both Americans, and Richard Haydon van Dusen (18), Canadian.

When they first appeared

in court on April 9 they were charged with possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

No plea was taken then.

Yesterday the charge was amended to one of simple possession and the three pleaded guilty.

Hemphill and Kwok were granted bail of \$1,000 each and van Dusen \$2,000.

Mr Sanders was told that on April 7 Narcotics Bureau officers, acting on information, went to the arrival hall of Kai Tak airport and

searched a party of about 40 students and teachers returning from Bangkok after a week's tour.

Two packets of suspected drugs were found inside Hemphill's shoes.

The drugs were sent to the Government Chemist and found to be 29.2 grams of cannabis.

Mr Anthony Sedgwick, who represented Hemphill, said in mitigation that she is a grade 12 student at the Hongkong International School.

She bought the cannabis

for \$40 while on holiday in Thailand.

Her parents, who were not in Hongkong when the offence was committed, had made arrangements for her to be admitted to a college in California in June.

Mr Sedgwick asked the magistrate not to record a conviction against her and produced a medical certificate to prove that she is not addicted to the drug.

A teacher of the International School, called as a character witness, testified

that Hemphill is a very diligent student and well liked by her classmates, adding that the school would take her back if no conviction was recorded.

Kwok pleaded guilty to possession of 5.9 grams of cannabis and a pipe fit for smoking the drug.

According to Mr R. G. Edwards, his counsel, Kwok comes from a very good family and is very active in school, being vice-president of his

class and chief editor of the school magazine.

Mr Edwards said Kwok is a very responsible and industrious worker and well liked by his teachers and classmates.

He went on a trip to the United States in February last year and was taken on a guided tour of a number of universities by a student whom he met.

The student told him that smoking marijuana was legal there.

Mr Edwards said Kwok started smoking in the United States and bought the pipe which he brought back to Hongkong on March 31 last year.

However, Kwok is not addicted to the drug.

He took the pipe to Bangkok where he bought the cannabis.

He smoked a cannabis cigarette and brought the rest back to Hongkong.

Mr Edwards said Kwok concealed the cannabis sticks inside a bottle of suntan lo-

tion because he did not want his mother to find out when she unpacked his luggage.

He is now very remorseful and this is one mistake he will never forget, said Mr Edwards.

His ambition is to become a doctor and he has been accepted by an American university for the next term.

Mr Edwards asked the court to give Kwok a conditional discharge and not to record a conviction.

Van Dusen admitted possession of 17.5 grams of cannabis and 0.02 grams of mixture of salts of esters of morphine.

The court was told that the drugs were found inside a pouch with a zip on the reverse side of a leather belt.

Appearing for van Dusen, Mr Robert Wang said in mitigation that van Dusen's father holds a responsible position in a firm and was transferred to Hongkong from Toronto in September.

He is well liked by his teachers and classmates and is known as a dependable

young person, said Mr Wang.

Counsel said van Dusen had frankly admitted to him that he had been invited to a number of parties where he smoked marijuana.

He bought the cannabis in Pataya Beach from a vendor who gave him, for being a good customer, a sample of heroin and told him he would like it.

Mr Wang said he was instructed by van Dusen's parents to make no lame excuses and to thank the police for nipping their son in the bud before he could become a "junkie" for the rest of his life.

Van Dusen has been accepted by a Canadian university and if a conviction is recorded, it would ruin his career, said Mr Wang.

Mr Sanders said he was quite concerned about students having drugs, especially heroin.

He added he would not say any more until he received the probation officers' report before passing sentence.

CS0: 5300

HONG KONG

DRUG CASE CONSTABLE JUMPS BAIL

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Apr 79 p 13

[Text]



Chu

Police yesterday issued the photograph of a 28-year-old constable who jumped bail while awaiting trial on a drug trafficking charge.

Chu Mun-tong, a policeman attached to the Traffic Training School, failed to report to the police as required in his bail conditions on Tuesday.

He was arrested by Narcotics Bureau officers on February 24 in Marsh Road, near Lockhart Road, Wanchai.

More than 1 lb of suspected heroin was found on him.

Chu was subsequently charged with possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking and brought before Mr W.A. Wilson at Causeway Bay Magistracy.

However, Chu was released on \$50,000 bail in cash and sureties on March 9 despite strong objections raised by the prosecution on grounds that he might abscond.

One of the bail conditions set for Chu was that he had to report to the Wanchai Police Station before noon daily.

But he failed to report on Tuesday.

Police have mounted a search for Chu although officers believe that he might have already sneaked out of Hongkong.

Anyone who may have any information about Chu is asked to contact the police on the hotline 5-277177.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

POLICE FOIL SUSPECTED CANNABIS CONSPIRACY

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 1 Apr 79 p 7

[Text]

Narcotics Bureau officers believe they have foiled an international conspiracy in cannabis trafficking following the seizure last week of \$750,000 worth of drugs at Kai Tak airport.

The 1.1 kg of suspected cannabis was concealed in a radio cassette-recorder on a Tokyo-bound Thai aircraft last Sunday.

An 18-year-old youth has been arrested.

Officers believe that the drugs were being transported from Bangkok via Hongkong to Tokyo where they could fetch high prices.

They said the seizure was made as a result of protracted investigations and co-operation with the Thai and Japanese police and the Customs and Excise Service of Hongkong.

The youth, Kennedy Hua, was charged with importing dangerous drugs and appeared before Mr B. J. Moylan in San Po Kong Court last Monday and again yesterday.

Hua pleaded not guilty to the charge and a trial will be held in six weeks.

He was released on \$30,000 bail.

On Friday, Narcotics Bureau officers raided a Happy Valley flat and seized 144 grams of suspected cannabis.

They also seized a quantity of packaging material, scales and weights in the flat which is believed to have been used as a packaging and distribution centre.

A 26-year-old travel agent, Alvin Wong, and two women, Tracy Wan (21) unemployed and Joy Kwok (23) hostess, were arrested and later charged with possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

They pleaded not guilty to the charge when they appeared before Mr G. O'Connor in Causeway Bay Court yesterday morning.

They were released on \$3,000 bail pending trial.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

\$20,000 IN HEROIN FOUND IN WANCHAI FLAT

Two Suspects Detained

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 4 Apr 79 p 11

[Text] Police who raided the Wanchai flat of a casual restaurant worker found heroin worth \$20,000 on the verandah, Judge Bewley was told yesterday.

Yip Hon-leung (52) and his wife Tong Fung-lin (33) are on trial in the Victoria District Court.

They have denied a charge of possession of drugs for trafficking.

Woman Senior Inspector Pang Mai-ling told Judge Bewley that she headed a police squad who raided a flat at 4 Matheson Street, Wanchai, about 8 am on December 14.

Miss Pang said that Tong opened the door to the party and she gave instructions to search the premises.

One of the rooms led to a verandah and inside an iron tank they found a quantity of used clothing, a vase, a red plastic bucket, and a yellow envelope containing 20 polythene bags of a mixture which resembled heroin.

Two children were asleep in other rooms of the flat, said Miss Pang.

Two of the bedrooms were locked and the police were unable to search them.

Tong told them that the keys were in the possession of the sub-tenants.

Miss Pang said that the two defendants went with her to Wanchai police station where Yip made a statement under caution.

Cross-examined by Mr Francis Eddis, who appears for Yip, Miss Pang denied that the police party went straight to the verandah because of information they had received, and did not bother with the other rooms.

Mr Eddis told the judge he was objecting to the admission of the statement in evidence on the grounds that the police sergeant who questioned the accused offered inducements to Yip to make it in the form of promised advantages to his family, and also misrepresented the nature of the offence, which he said was not serious.

Judge Bawley will rule later on the admissibility of the statement.

The case for the Crown is that the mixture found in the polythene envelopes contained 63.4 grammes of heroin.

Crown counsel Barry Moorfoot prosecutes and Mr Douglas Ng appears for Tong.

The trial continues today.

Restaurant Worker Jailed

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 10 Apr 79 p 8

[Excerpt]

A 52-year-old casual restaurant worker Yip Hon-leung was sent to prison for four years by Judge Bawley in Victoria District Court yesterday for possession of heroin worth \$20,000 for trafficking.

His wife, Tong Fung-lin (35), was acquitted by the judge of the same charge.

Judge Bawley yesterday ruled that a statement alleged to have been made to police by Yip was admissible in evidence.

In the statement Yip said that the 63.4 grams of heroin found in his flat in Wanchai was his property and his wife knew nothing about it.

Mr Francis Eddis, who appeared for Yip, objected to the statement on the grounds that the police officer who questioned Yip offered inducements to him to make the admissions.

In court Yip denied possession of the drug.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

POLICE SMASH KOWLOON DRUG NETWORK

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 30 Mar 79 p 11

[Text] "Narcotics Bureau detectives carried out pre-dawn raids in Kowloon yesterday and smashed what they believe to be a major drug distribution ring.

Four men and two women were arrested and five pounds of heroin worth about \$200,000 on the retail market were seized.

After more than three weeks of investigation and surveillance, detectives working under the direction of Superintendent Dick Williamson raided a flat in Tung Fong Street, Yaumatei, believed to have been used to store heroin and to dilute it before distribution to pedlars.

In the flat, detectives arrested a 34-year-old Chiu Chow pak pai driver and seized one pound of No 3 heroin together with chemicals and equipment associated with diluting heroin.

Heroin base usually has a purity of 70 per cent, but is mixed with chemicals to a purity of 25 per cent before being distributed to drug pedlars.

Following the seizures, detectives raided a flat in Hong Keung Road, Sanpokong and seized a further two pounds of heroin.

In a third raid on a flat in Ngautaukok Road, Kung Tong, detectives seized another two pounds of heroin which were thrown out of a window.

Police said they suspected that the flat was being used as another storage centre.

Police said those arrested were last night still being detained for further inquiries.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

CONFESSION REJECTED IN DRUG CASE

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 12 Apr 79 p 17

[Text]

Judge Bewley in Victoria District Court yesterday rejected a confession alleged to have been made to police by a suspected drug dealer and acquitted him of a charge of trafficking.

Lau Shek-chuen (27), a printer, was charged with possessing, for trafficking, 27 grams of heroin with a street market price of \$10,000.

The only prosecution evidence against him was a signed confession that the drugs were his.

"Police had been looking for the defendant for five months.

"It was suspected that the drugs were his, but there was no evidence against him," said the judge.

"There was a strong motive for the police to try and obtain a confession, otherwise he would probably have had to be released."

Lau had told the court that his 60-year-old mother and 16-year-old brother were arrested with him and police told him they would be released if he signed a confession.

He said he was also told that if he did not sign his mother might go to prison.

Lau said the police officer dictated the confession to him.

The judge said that while the drugs were found in the sleeve of a woman's coat, Lau's alleged confession said he had hidden them in the sleeve of a woman's shirt.

"The garment in question is not a shirt, although it is a ladies' garment," said the judge.

"If he had hidden the drugs in the wardrobe he would have known he had put them in the sleeve of a coat.

"If the confession was a genuine one there was no point in saying it was a shirt and not a coat.

"On the other hand if the detective constable got the facts of the case from his fellow officers it is quite possible he was wrongly informed."

The judge said he was not impressed with the evidence of the detective constable who badly contradicted himself.

He did not believe that Lau volunteered to make a statement.

"I cannot say I am sure that no inducement or threat was held out to him.

"The Crown has failed to prove it was a voluntary statement," the judge concluded.

Evidence was given that police raided a flat at Tin Wan estate in Aberdeen on February 14 and found 10 packets of a mixture containing the heroin in the sleeve of a woman's coat in a wardrobe.

The court was told that Lau did not live in the flat, which was occupied by his mother, his 16-year-old brother and his two children.

He was separated from his wife but was visiting the children at the flat when the police arrived.

Lau said he had used the wardrobe when he lived in the flat but did not consider it belonged to him and it did not now contain any of his possessions.

Mr Francis Eddis defended Lau and Mr Brian van Buuren appeared for the Crown.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

LORRY DRIVER GETS EIGHT YEARS FOR DRUGS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 18 Apr 79 p 9

[Text]

A lorry driver was yesterday sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for possession of drugs valued at about \$250,000 for unlawful trafficking.

Mr Justice Garcia, in passing sentence on Lam Tat-cheung (24) at the High Court, said the courts should put a brake on these activities by passing deterrent sentences.

He added that anyone who lent a hand in this kind of activity, regardless of the relatively small value of the drugs involved, should receive a deterrent sentence.

Lam pleaded guilty.

The court was told the drugs — 2,674.6 grams of a mixture containing 233.2 grams of salts of esters of morphine — were found under Lam's seat on a lorry.

Narcotics Bureau officers, acting on information, had followed the lorry from Yuen Long to Sai Yee Street, Mongkok, on September 6.

Lam had three previous convictions, including robbery, criminal intimidation and claiming to be a member of a triad society.

Crown counsel N. Aiken prosecuted.

Mr Christopher Young appeared for Lam on the instructions of the Director of Legal Aid.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

DRUG SUSPECT TREATED FOR ACID BURNS

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 4 Apr 79 p 11

[Text] A man standing trial in the High Court for manufacturing dangerous drugs had been admitted to hospital for treatment for chemical burns to both his eyes.

Crown counsel Michael Sinclair, prosecuting in the trial of Lin Chak-hung (35), Ma Ting-kit (36) and Lin Chor-hing (34), told Mr Justice O'Connor and a jury that there was no evidence as to what caused the burns to Lin Chor-hing's eyes.

According to a Government chemist, however, hydrochloric acid was one of the substances used in the manufacture of dangerous drugs.

The defendants plead not guilty to manufacturing dangerous drugs at a flat in Kimberley Road, Kowloon, between July 5 and July 30 last year.

They also deny possessing 10,440 gms of a mixture containing 2,844.8 gms of salts of esters of morphine for the purpose of unlawful trafficking.

Mr Sinclair told the jury that at 6 pm on July 30, police officers from the Emergency Unit raided the ninth floor of a building in Kimberley Road.

Three officers rang the door bell, but no one answered the door although they could hear music inside.

Two other officers who had remained in their police car saw two men running out of the building, barefoot.

Police gave chase and caught hold of one of them, Lin Chak-hung. They found on him a driving licence and \$3,100.

The other man, Ma, ran into a restaurant but was also caught. He was searched and a hospital receipt in the name of Lin Chor-hing was found.

Their flat was searched and a large quantity of heroin and chemicals and equipment for the manufacture of heroin was found.

Mr Sinclair said the manufacturing process was still in progress when police entered the flat.

The process was in the drying and seiving stage and a stove was still burning.

Narcotics Bureau officers also arrived at the scene to investigate.

Counsel said there was almost no furniture in the flat except a bed and some clothes.

All three defendants' finger prints were found on several items such as a basin, a biscuit tin and a weighing scale.

The premises had been rented by Lin Chak-hung's wife on July 3.

On September 19 police arrested Lin Chor-hing and found at his Kun Tong home a doctor's visiting card which showed he had on July 24 been to a doctor's clinic seeking treatment for chemical burns to both his eyes.

He was admitted to hospital the following day and was discharged on July 28.

Police also found at Lin Chor-hing's home three metal basins, a stainless steel boiler and some clothes which had traces of dangerous drugs.

Mr Ming Huang is defending Lin Chak-hung and Ma and Mr David Sparrow is defending Lin Chor-hing.

Hearing continues today.

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

DRUGS AMBUSH--A man wanted by the Narcotics Bureau in connection with the manufacture of dangerous drugs was arrested in an ambush in the New Territories yesterday. A loaded .38 revolver, ammunition, 12 lbs of No 3 heroin and 25 lbs of other drugs valued at \$500,000 were seized in the man's Yuen Long flat. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 31 Mar 79 p 1]

DRUGS SEIZED ON SHIP--Customs officers yesterday seized drugs worth about \$500,000 on board a Liberian freighter which arrived from Karachi via Singapore. The drugs--17 lbs of raw opium and five pounds of cannabis resin--were found hidden in the engine room of the Al Faraj. A search of the ship was continuing this morning. No arrest has been made. Another seizure of drugs worth \$120,000 was made at Kai Tak airport yesterday. A man and woman about to board a plane for Tokyo were arrested. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 5 Apr 79 p 14]

DRUGS LEAD TO JAIL--An unemployed man was yesterday sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for possession of dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking. Lee Chung-fat (32) had pleaded guilty on Monday but Mr Justice Power deferred sentencing him until yesterday. Lee admitted possession of 3,000 grams of a mixture containing 1,300 grams of salts of esters of morphine and 280 grams of prepared opium at his flat in Fu Shan estate on September 28. Crown counsel S. M. Cotsen said the drugs had a total street value of about \$300,000. The court was told Narcotics Bureau officers, acting on information, arrested Lee in Shamshuipo on September 28 and seized the drugs at Lee's home on the same day. In mitigation, Lee said the drugs had been given to him by a friend for safe-keeping. Lee had a clear record. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 11 Apr 79 p 12]

CSO: 5300

INDIA

BRIEFS

PUNE NARCOTICS HAUL--Pune, 18 Apr (PTI)--The impounding of an Ambassador car has led to the seizure of a large quantity of narcotics from various parts of Pune, Hadapsar, Dehu Road and Lonavala, the police said yesterday. Acting on information that narcotics were being regularly smuggled into Pune from Madhya Pradesh, the police intercepted the car, which led to a series of raids that yielded 115 kilos of ganja, opium and charas valued at Rs 1.90 lakhs. Three vehicles were also seized. [Text] [Delhi TIMES OF INDIA 19 Apr 79 p 5 BK]

CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

MORPHINE DEALERS ARRESTED--A detective unit of the Jakarta Metropolitan Police arrested a morphine and marijuana dealer name BA alias A, 30 years of age, at his home on Jembatan Tambang Road, 10th Neighborhood Unit, West Jakarta on 30 January. They also seized 3,000 mg of morphine in powder form and 2,600 mg of morphine in capsules. The detective unit commander, Lt Col Koeparmono Ichsan, who was accompanied by the Information Division chief of the Jakarta Metropolitan Police, R. A. Tonang, said that the morphine dealer had carried on his business for some time. When his unit launched Operations Tentacle 1, 2 and 3, he had always escaped. In his business the dealer was assisted by two younger brother, MCH and ML. It was these two men who sold 2,500 mg of morphine daily. They have also been arrested. Koeparmono declined to disclose from what source BA acquired the morphine as the case is still under investigation [Text] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 3 Feb 79 p 2] 9316

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JAPAN

VOLUNTEERS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL WORK DECREASING

Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHINBUN in Japanese 15 Apr 79 p 22

[Article: "Narcotics G-Men Lurking About at Night, Chasing Enemy By Day Stake-out for 2 Weeks in Dim Light"]

[Text] "Where is the home of that guy?"; "Is the amount of stimulants 20 grams or 30?"--. Such questions were being rained on a middle-aged person by a couple of men in a booth in a corner of a bar at Shinjuku, Tokyo. The bar was crowded with young men and office girls on their way home from work. The middle-aged person was answering the questions in a whispering tone, while worrying about those around him. His voice was drowned out by a loud rock tune resounding through the bar.

"That guy" is the boss of a gangster organization who had been arrested in connection with a case of smuggling of stimulants but was released on bail last fall and disappeared. The two men, who are chasing this boss, are Akira OKAHARA, 28, and Takao ISHIBE, 53. Both are so-called "narcotic G-men," who belong to the Welfare Ministry's Narcotics Control Office for the Kanto-Shinetsu Area.

That night, the two G-men hurried to the site of an apartment house at Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku, according to the information provided by that middle-aged person. Hiding themselves in a room in the building just across the street from the apartment house, they kept watch on this apartment house until 0300 hours. No person looking like the ganster boss, however, appeared. The two G-men repeated their effort the next night, but again in vain.

On the fifth day of their search for the boss, the two G-men began to watch the "rendezvous" hotels in the neighborhood. They tailed a couple who came out of a hotel which looked "suspicious" to them, and ascertained, in a casual manner, the face of the male partner in the dim light. They repeated such a practice many times during one night. It was about 2 weeks after the starting of such efforts that narcotics G-men raided an apartment house at Nakameguro, Tokyo, and arrested the ganster boss they wanted, with the aid of new information.

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The hours from evening to midnight are the hours of activity for narcotics G-men, as well as for their "enemy." During these hours, narcotics G-men gather information, lie in wait and tail persons they suspect. When they arrest a person under suspicion, they attack the home of the suspect before dawn, when the suspect has just fallen asleep. ISHIBE said, smiling wryly, that "Our working hours are specified, but only nominally." He is a veteran narcotics control officer who has been working solely in this field since the year of the War's end. OKAHARA, who says that he had a career as a MITI official, switched to this field of service four years ago, according to his own desire.

Narcotics G-men start their investigations with following the flow of drugs. It is important for them to seize information, to the effect that "A certain man is engaged in narcotics traffic." The "sensitiveness" of the the network of antennas (informants) plays an important role. Sometimes, a woman, spurned by a man, delivers information out of her grudge against the man. Also in some cases, information is provided for the purpose of slander. So it becomes necessary for narcotics G-men to have a discerning eye to see whether the information is correct.

Narcotics G-men become most tense when they raid their enemy after secret investigations. "What is the number of persons to cope with?"; "Do they have deadly weapons?"--Each plainclothesman has a small pistol, Colt 35, in his pocket. Yet he feels uneasy. Furthermore, G-men recently are worried by high-rise apartment houses. The entrance to such apartment houses is limited to an iron door, and the windows fronting the corridor, too, are small. They cannot be broken easily.

Wholesale Arrest or End of an Act

"It takes us a lot of time to break the door chain and get in. In the meantime, they pour the drugs down the flush toilet. They look nonchalant, when we invade their rooms. Formerly, we could kick down a door and enter a house easily. We now heave a sigh of relief, when it is found, at the stage of secret investigation, that the house we have marked for a raid is a wooden building."

It was in 1946 that regulations were established for control of narcotics, such as heroin and cocaine, and hemp (marihuana). (These regulations were turned into a law in 1948). The Stimulants Control Law was enacted a little later, in 1951. As if to take advantage of the shock dealt Japanese society by the postwar confusion and then by the outbreak of the Korean War, the number of narcotics addicts in the country continued to increase in geometrical progression until the second half of the 1950's.

Eiichi NAKAZAW, who is Director of the Narcotics Control Office and who took part in the campaign for the extermination of the illegal heroin sales organizations, which campaign was conducted on a nation-wide scale in 1963 and in 1964, stated his experience in the campaign as follows:

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"Sometimes I disguised myself as a no-good son of a company president, or passed a girl from our office off as a 'sweetheart' in an effort to approach such illegal organizations. It would take about a month to win the trust of such an organization and secure a share in the distribution of the drugs. We then started business by renting a room in the house of a friend of ours or in an apartment house. When the whole feature of the illegal organization became clear, we would round up its members. If our identity were to become known to them, all efforts we had been making would come to an end. We now feel that we ran great risks in those days."

The Narcotics and Hemp Control Law provides that "The control officer may obtain narcotics, etc., from others." This provision recognizes to narcotics G-men alone what is called the "right to use decoys in investigations." It is said, however, that this method of investigation "has scarcely been used, partly because of the criticism raised by legal circles," since 1965, when the illegal heroin sales organizations throughout the country were virtually wrecked. In the case of stimulants which were included in the items to be supervised by narcotics G-men in 1972, such a method of investigation is not permitted.

First-Line G-Men Melancholy, with Number of Volunteers Decreasing

It is said that "Almost all recent criminal cases connected with narcotics reflect an escalation of hedonism, while most cases until about 1955 had their cause in the desire to escape from the postwar living difficulties" (Ryuji KURODA, Director of the Investigation Division of the Office). In the past several years, the number of criminal cases connected with drugs, especially stimulants, has been increasing rapidly again.

According to the Welfare Ministry's statistics, the year 1978 saw the occurrence of about 30,000 criminal cases connected with stimulants. The number is twice as big as that recorded 5 years ago, and is nearing the level reached in the peak year of 1954 (53,000 cases). On the other hand, there were about 2,000 criminal cases connected with narcotics last year, and about 80 percent of these cases were connected with marihuana. The number of abusers of stimulants is now increasing among the people at large, such as wage-earners, housewives and students. Also it is said that about 70 percent of the unlawful users of marihuana are young people under 20 years of age.

The mission of the narcotics control officers is to fight against this social evil. For some reasons, however, the number of volunteers for this work has decreased noticeably. The Office of the Welfare Ministry drew up a list of about 200 persons specializing in pharmaceutical or jurisprudence, whom it selected from among those who passed the national public service examination (middle level) held by the National Personnel Authority toward the end of last year, and asked them, by telephone and mail, to come to the Office for an interview as candidates for the post of narcotics control officer. In the end, however, none of them answered this appeal. Director NAKAZAWA smiled wryly, saying that "This is quite a regrettable trend." News of "no new employees" is creating, though quietly, a feeling of unrest

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and a gloomy atmosphere also among those narcotics G-men working on the first line. (We used the fictitious names, OKAHARA and ISHIBE, in this article, at the request of the Welfare Ministry).

Narcotics Control Officers Numbering 176 in All, Including Four Women

There are 176 narcotics control officers (including four women) throughout the country. These officers are assigned to the nine Regional Narcotics Control Offices. In status, they are special judicial police officers, like the maritime safety officers and the postal service inspectors. They made their debut in 1946, with the title of "narcotics judicial police officer."

To be qualified for the post of narcotics G-man, one of the following two requirements must be met: 1) to be a graduate of a university who majored in pharmaceuticals or in law, and who has passed the national public service examination; or 2) to have been engaged in pharmaceutical administration for 3 years or more, and in narcotics control affairs for 7 years or more. As a matter of fact, about one-third of the total number of narcotics control officers are qualified as pharmacutists.

Narcotics control officers are paid salaries according to the schedule of salaries for ordinary administrative officials, with the addition of 12 percent in allowances for risk. Including overtime allowances (¥12,000 a month on the average), the average monthly net income is said to be about ¥180,000, in the case of a 36-year-old narcotics control officer.

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JAPAN

BRONZE POT-BELLIED STATUE USED TO CONCEAL STIMULANTS

Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 22 Apr 79 p 12

[Text] KYOTO---A Korean ragpicker who allegedly attempted to smuggle stimulant drugs hidden in a bronze image of "Hotei," a pot-bellied god, one of the Seven Deities of Fortune, was arrested with a cache of illegal drugs worth 200 million yen here. Police used an X-ray fluoroscope to detect the smuggled drugs.

Booked Friday night was So Pu Kun, 58, of Iwakura Hanazono-cho, Sakyo-ku, here.

The police learned that the ragpicker had been traveling to South Korea seven or eight times annually for the past several years.

When he returned to the Osaka International Airport from South Korea on the evening of April 7, the detective made a body check, but failed to detect any illegal drugs.

The police released him after confiscating a bronze image of a potbellied god. The radiologists at the Kyoto Prefectural Police irradiated the bronze image with an X-ray fluoroscope and discovered that something like beans or vinyl bags were shown on the scope.

The policemen immediately broke the image and found four vinyl bags containing stimulant



Four stimulant drug bags hidden in the potbellied "Hotei" image.

drugs.

The police arrested So when he visited the police to receive the bronze image Friday evening. The Korean ragpicker confessed to the attempt to smuggle illegal drugs into Japan when questioned by the policemen at Shimogamo Station.

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MALAYSIA

REORGANIZATION TO CENTRALIZE CONTROL OF ANTIDRUG ACTIVITIES

Under Ministry of Home Affairs

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Mar 79 p 28

[Text]

PENANG, Thurs. — A narcotics division will be set up in the Police Department to fight the drug problem.

Disclosing this today, Home Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie said the division would take over anti-drug activities from the Central Narcotics Bureau, which would be dissolved.

Tan Sri Ghazali was speaking during a Press conference by the chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Drug Abuse, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri (Dr.) Mahathir Mohamad, after the committee's meeting.

Tan Sri Ghazali said the narcotics division would be assisted by the Customs Department and the Pharmacy Division of the Ministry of Health.

All the officers of the Central Narcotics Bureau would be absorbed into the new division once it was set up, he added.

A secretariat

The whole idea of the new set-up, which was decided at the meeting at Universiti Sains Malaysia, was to provide

one body to co-ordinate anti-drug measures for greater effectiveness and to avoid duplication of enforcement.

The Government had studied the anti-drug activities of all Government agencies and it felt that a more effective approach was needed.

Tan Sri Ghazali said a narcotics secretariat would be set up in his Ministry to co-ordinate all anti-drug activities and find measures to combat the problem.

The directors of the secretariat and the narcotics division would be announced later.

Tan Sri Ghazali said the Government would adopt a four-pronged approach in the drug war.

They were prevention and enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, education and research.

Earlier, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the executive unit was formerly under the chairmanship of former Deputy Law Minister Datuk Rais Yatim. Since Datuk Rais is now the Menteri Besar of Negri Sembilan,

it was better for the Home Minister to be the chairman. Datuk Rais would remain a member.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said a total of 36,000 addicts had been traced. The United Nations report said only one-tenth of addicts could be traced and based on this, it would mean that there were 360,000 addicts in the country.

He said the Government had earlier estimated that there were 140,000 addicts. Millions of dollars had been spent by the addicts to buy drugs and this constituted a threat to the nation's economy.

Facilities

The majority of the addicts (80 per cent) were aged between 15 and 29.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the Government and its agencies were taking preventive measures, but there was no indication that drugs were difficult to get. In fact they were easy to get.

The problem was rehabilitation. "We can provide facilities for 1,000 only, whereas we

have traced 36,000 addicts," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said there was a certain section of the people who cure addicts just for the money. This was also another problem because the addicts were reluctant to go to rehabilitation centres set up by the Government but instead preferred to go to such people for treatment.

He said the committee had studied a proposal to set aside an island to rehabilitate addicts, but they had found a suitable island.

In reply to a question, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said drugs were available in quantities.

"We have recovered \$56 million worth of drugs but this is a small amount, compared to the total number of doses used by addicts."

"We can make drug addiction a crime. If you have 250,000 addicts, some means of punishment would have to be devised."

"If you cane them, those who wield the cane will soon lose the use of their arms, and if you put them in jail, the prisons will soon be full," he said.

Enforcement Agencies Pitifully Weak

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Mar 79 p 12

[Editorial: "Far to Go"]

[Text]

Finally a central unit with overriding powers will be set up to deal with the drug problem. This is a basic prerequisite to cutting the supply of drugs which has been handicapped by lack of coordination between Police, Customs, the Narcotics Bureau and welfare officers. The narcotics division will be part of the Police Department and will supersede the Bureau; if the division can attain the success achieved by the units in Home Affairs who deal with security, then the drug menace will be checked. But the division will have to start almost from scratch. In 1976 the number of addicts in Malaysia was estimated to be about 1,000. By the end of 1977 this estimate had grown to 200,000. The number now is 360,000. But in spite of the extent of the crisis the agencies dealing with it are pitifully weak. The new division will absorb the staff of the old Narcotics Bureau — but that totals only 30 officers. There are no facilities to handle criminal addicts in our jails. Rehabilitation centres cannot even cope with those who volunteer for treatment. After care is almost non-existent.

The Minister of Home Affairs has promised a multipronged attack on the drug problem. A crackdown on smugglers and pushers will disrupt supply and force many addicts to surrender themselves for treatment. But enforcement will always be a holding action — so long as the profits of drug running are so fabulous there will always be people willing to risk their necks — literally — to serve the syndicates. The crux is reducing demand through rehabilitating addicts. The tea and sympathy school would have us accept only volunteers for rehabilitation, but there is a strong argument for compulsory treatment and after care for all known addicts. It takes extraordinary courage and stamina to kick the drug habit and to rebuild a life, and these traits are not characteristic of addicts. Such a programme, however, would require a heavy investment in centres and trained welfare workers, changes in penal administration and changes in the law. Are our administrators, who have so far relied almost exclusively on heavier legal penalties to attack the drug problem, prepared for this kind of investment?

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MALAYSIA

ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN FACES SERIOUS PROBLEMS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Mar 79 p 7

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — A large percentage of drug offenders arrested in the last eight years have been dealt with, the Menteri Besar of Negri Sembilan, Datuk Rais Yatim, said today.

Speaking in his capacity as president of Pemadam, Datuk Rais said at the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club that 80 per cent of the 16,500 offenders arrested since 1972 had either been sent to rehabilitation centres or convicted.

He said the law on drug offenders was not "satisfactory."

Even an offender facing a serious charge had several recourse before receiving the death sentence or life imprisonment.

Drug supply

But while the law on such offenders was "clear and complete," the national anti-drug campaign still faced a number of serious problems.

Datuk Rais said controlling the supply of drugs in Malaysia was one such problem.

Suggestions made to combat the supply of drugs would necessarily entail a large sum of money, he added.

The Treasury had ap-

proved \$30 million to be used for the national anti-drug campaign for this year.

But without regional co-operation, the drug flow into Malaysia would not cease, Datuk Rais said.

He added there was a positive indication that Malaysia would soon become a member of the United Nations Narcotics Commission.

This, together with close co-operation with neighbouring anti-drug associations like SANA (Singapore) and SARDA (Hong Kong) would help improve our society, he said.

Major problem

Another major problem facing the anti-drug campaign was the lack of counsellors, facilities and remand centres.

Datuk Rais said the construction of such centres was slow.

Government departments like the PWD were having difficulties meeting the target dates for the completion of such centres.

Earlier, Datuk L. Krishan, a former president of the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club, presented Datuk Rais with an anti-drug film financed by the club.

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MALAYSIA

REHABILITATION CENTERS TO HAVE 1,400 BED CAPACITY BY 1980

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Mar 79 p 9

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.— The Welfare Services Ministry will have six drug rehabilitation centres with a total capacity of over 1,400 beds by 1980.

The Minister, Datin Paduka Hajjah Aishah Ghani, in disclosing this today, said that this would be a significant increase over the 1975 figures when the accommodation capacity was only 300 beds.

Datin Paduka Hajjah Aishah was speaking after receiving audio-visual equipment and books worth \$15,000 from the United States Ambassador here, Mr. Robert Miller.

The equipment is part of US \$250,000 (\$350,000) assistance given to a drug rehabilitation training project. The US has

also provided three training experts for the eight-month project which was started in December last year.

Datin Paduka Hajjah Aishah said that the present project would aim to produce about 21 local instructors and counselors for drug rehabilitation.

She said that through the US technical assistance, the Government was able to embark

on a bold and systematic programme to train local officers both for counselling and management of rehabilitation systems here.

She said that a new comprehensive drug rehabilitation centre at Besut, Trengganu, had been completed. The centre had facilities for both detoxification and rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation centre at Kuala Kubu Baru would also be expanded to include such facilities, with a capacity of 300 inmates.

She said that two more centres, one in Kedah and the other in Johore, were being planned under the Third Malaysia Plan.

Datin Paduka Hajjah Aishah later told reporters that welfare directors from all over the country were now attending a five-day training programme on drug abuse. She would discuss ways of improving the Ministry's operations with them.

She also said that the Ministry was planning to decentralise its machinery and would be opening up offices on all housing estates and high rise flat areas.— Bernama.

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MALAYSIA

REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF DRUGS

Reduction in Flow

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 18 Mar 79 p 13

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The flow of drugs in and out of the country has decreased, the Customs Director Datuk Rahim bin Datuk Tak said today.

"This is due to increased border surveillance and joint patrols by both Customs and police as well as the Border Patrol Unit and Local Defence Corp," he added.

"The good public response in coming forward with information and heavy penalties given those caught involved in drug trafficking has also contributed to the decrease of the drug flow.

"However, we are not going to be complacent as the drug traders are continuously keeping a look-out for a chance to smuggle the drugs in."

"We are planning to improve the system of screening passengers leaving the country particularly at international airports and we are looking into ways of increasing staff and equipment for the purpose," he said.

Datuk Rahim also said that the Customs dog unit has presently been utilised including the four dogs received recently from the United States Customs.

Shift to Sabah, Sarawak

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 3 Mar 79 p 6

[Text]

THERE was a familiar ring to police comments in Kuching in the wake of a Kuala Lumpur report last week about drug trafficking in Borneo.

The story quoted Datuk Abdul Rahim, Malaysia's Director-General of Customs, saying drug syndicates are making use of Sarawak and Sabah airports (notably Kuching and Kota Kinabalu) as a new route to shift drugs from the Golden Triangle to countries like Hongkong.

The switch to an alternative route is because the syndicates are finding it difficult to beat the detection system in Peninsular Malaysia.

Kuching police said they have some information indicating such drug movement and have been keeping a watch for some time for traffickers — but without success.

The problem, they claim, is a lack of concrete facts to allow them to make a swoop at the right moment. First Division police chief Mr Vin-

cent Khoo has frequently appealed for public help in providing accurate information on traffickers: "Without concrete, timely information we can't act."

But while these comments are familiar, other views are less so.

For one thing, there is no anti-narcotics bureau in the state, a unit with the specific task of handling the drug menace. The fight is left to the police Crime Branch and customs, who have to do it with their other duties.

Another handicap is Sarawak doesn't have the help of dog teams specially trained in sniffing out drugs.

Although Datuk Abdul Rahim said such units are soon to be sent for use at East Malaysia's airports, Kuching police don't know when this will be and just how many dogs are to be used, where. It is understood, however, that about eight dog handlers have already been trained for the work.

Courier Recruitment

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Mar 79 p 13

[Text]

SINGAPORE, Thurs.—Some Singaporeans were lured into becoming couriers to smuggle heroin into Europe, especially into Amsterdam, the Central Narcotics Bureau director, Mr. Tee Tua So, confirmed today.

The victims were sometimes high-livers and gamblers who needed cash urgently.

Such people are singled out by the syndicates' agents who tempt them with cash loans and finally lure them into smuggling drugs to Europe, where there is a big

market, said Mr. Tee.

He said that the couriers are paid anything between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for smuggling two suitcases containing heroin on each trip.

The consignment is usually left in the plane's cargo hold or taken out to the aircraft on which the courier is scheduled to depart from Singapore.

However, due to the alertness of narcotics officers in places like Amsterdam, most of the couriers are caught.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

ADDICTION UP IN KLANG, FOREIGN ARRESTS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Mar 79 p 11

[Text]

KLANG, Sun. — The number of drug addicts in Klang district has increased by nearly 10 times — from 108 reported cases in 1974 to 976 cases last year, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Hormat Rafel said today.

Datuk Hormat said police had also arrested 815 suspected addicts in 1977 compared with 289 in 1975 in the State.

He was opening the day-care anti-drug centre at Jalan Tengku Dia Udin here.

Selangor State Secretary Datuk Wan Mansor Abdullah, Selangor CPO P. Alagendra, the District Officer, who is also the district Pemadam chairman, Encik Abdul Hadi Sidek and the Klang Municipal Council president Encik Yaacob Abdul Hamid

were also present.

Datuk Hormat said 6,716 suspected addicts have registered with the Welfare Department throughout the country up to the middle of last year.

He said 2,149 of them had been sent to the drug rehabilitation centres in Bukit Mertajam, Johore Baru and Kuala Kubu Baru.

New centre

A total of 622 Malaysians were also arrested in various countries abroad for suspected drug trafficking till last June.

Datuk Hormat also said work was in progress to build a big day rehabilitation centre on a 400-acre site in Sepang.

He hoped the authorities responsible for the project would give full attention to its development as there are dif-

ficulties in housing and rehabilitating the addicts and pushers.

"To fight the drug menace, the cooperation of all parties is needed," he said.

"The State Government will continue to allocate funds to fight drug abuse but the cooperation and administration of this centre require continued effort and financing.

"We also have plans to set up a day-care anti-drug centre in Petaling Jaya.

Besides the Government's contribution, the people, especially philanthropists, firms, industries and voluntary organisations could also assist in the campaign by donations."

Datuk Hormat added that the public must also do their bit to fight the drug menace.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

NARCOTICS ARRESTS, TRIALS, SENTENCES REPORTED

Addicts Arrested Outside Clinics

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Mar 79 p 10

[Text]

PETALING JAYA, Tues. — Police rounded up 40 suspected drug addicts found loitering outside private clinics here over the past 24 hours.

Deputy OCPD (Crime) DSP Godwin Anthony said today that about 20 were picked up early this morning.

The arrests followed a tip-off that some addicts were planning to raid clinics to steal drugs, especially tranquillisers.

Mr. Anthony said: "They are a desperate lot. From our enquiries, many of them have been without drugs for more than three days.

"We believe there is an acute shortage of drugs here and we suspect these addicts are desperately looking for a substitute drug or tranquilliser.

Dearer heroin

"We believe many of them have been keeping an eye on some private clinics, probably planning to raid them."

The price of a tube of heroin is believed to have gone up from \$5 to \$15.

"But even if you have the money, you cannot get them," Mr. Anthony said.

Abdul Malek Trial

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Mar 79 p 9

[Excerpts]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Sessions Court was told today a police officer found a packet containing heroin in a red bag which was thrown out of a taxi by a passenger. ASP Ahmad Tajuddin bin Shahabuddin said he picked up the bag while Inspector Zamani bin Mohamed Nor arrested the passenger, Abdul Malek bin Abdul Shukur. Abdul Malek, 28, is on trial for allegedly trafficking in 187.9 gm of heroin at the third mile Jalan Ipoh on Oct. 28, 1976. ASP Ahmad Tajuddin said that on Oct. 28 1976, he led a police party to the fourth mile Jalan Ipoh after receiving a tip-off. Shortly after, he saw Abdul Malek coming from the direction of a petrol station carrying a red bag. Abdul Malek then took a taxi. ASP Tajuddin said that as soon as Inspector Zamani's car overtook the taxi, Abdul Malek threw the bag out of the taxi.

Abdul Malek Sentence

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Mar 79 p 10

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Abdul Malek bin Abdul Shukur, 32, was today sentenced by the Sessions Court to life imprisonment when he was found guilty of drug trafficking. He was charged with trafficking in 187.9 grammes of heroin at the third mile Jalan Ipoh on Oct. 28, 1976.

Doctor Charged with Possession

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Mar 79 p 10

[Excerpts]

IPOH, Fri. — A lawyer submitted in the magistrate's court here today that his client, a doctor charged with possession of drugs found in a house, was a "mere visitor" to that house. He said Dr. Gurmukh Singh, 32, s/o Maginda Singh, was not aware of the presence of the drugs.

Mr. Paramjit Singh said this after his client had made his defence to a charge of possessing 0.43 grammes of heroin

at 9.30 p.m. on Dec. 26, 1976. The offence was allegedly committed at a house in Jalan Rimba Panjang in Buntong here.

"No evidence was adduced by the prosecution to show that the accused looked nervous, or upset, or even made any attempt to escape when confronted by the police," said counsel.

"The only inference which can be drawn from this conduct is that the accused was not aware of the presence of any drug on the premises."

He said Dr. Gurmukh Singh had given his evidence in a frank and straightforward manner. Although subjected to severe and lengthy cross-examination, the prosecution had been unable to find any flaws in his testimony.

Mr. Paramjit Singh said it had been proved by both the prosecution and defence witnesses that it was the doctor's mother (now deceased) who owned, occupied, cared and maintained the premises, and not the doctor.

Submitting, Chief Insp. Ko said the accused was found alone on the premises that day and there were many medicines and boxes in the hall, indicating that he was in occupation of the house.

Besides, she added, his mother was ailing then. She further contended that the accused was not authorised to have the drugs found there.

Magistrate Mr. T.S. Marbeck reserved judgment to April 17.

Kuala Lumpur Drug Raids

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Mar 79 p 11

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Police detained 11 suspected drug addicts and pushers, and seized 30 straws and tubes of heroin in several parts of the city yesterday.

The city CID Chief Asst. Commissioner M. Balasundram said today police were going all out against drug offences.

He called on the public to co-operate with the police by coming forward with information on suspected drug pushers or the haunts of drug addicts.

"We will continue to harass those involved in the drug activities," he said.

Yesterday, a mobile police patrol caught three men smoking heroin near the Forest Research Institute in Kepong following a tip-off at 1.45 a.m.

They also seized eight straws of heroin from the addicts.

Police on beat patrols arrested two men in Jalan Bukit Bintang — one at about noon near the Apollo Hotel who had five straws of heroin on him and the other at 10.30 p.m. Police found one straw of heroin on him.

They also arrested a youth in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman who had a tube of heroin, a man in Jalan Abdul Samad who had three straws of heroin, a man in Jalan Sungai Besi who was caught with two tubes of the drug, and a man in Sentul Pasar who had seven straws of heroin on him.

A motor-cyclist and his pillion rider stopped in Jalan Pekililing by police were also detained when they tried to throw away three straws of heroin.

Police also detained a man in Jalan Chow Kit who was caught with a small quantity of ganja on him last night.

Arrests in Negeri Sembilan

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Mar 79 p 4

[Excerpts]

KUALA PILAH, Mon. — Youths become drug addicts because of poor religious faith resulting from lack of home discipline and not because of poverty or troubled minds, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Rais Yatim said today.

Datuk Rais, who was launching the Kuala Pilah Pemadam at the Town Hall here, said 327 addicts were arrested last year — an increase of 87 compared to the 1977 figure.

He said 72 were sent to rehabilitation centres by

the Social Welfare Department and about 15 others were awaiting to be admitted.

Datuk Rais, who was the former Pemadam chairman, said the drug flow now had dropped as a result of strict checks at entry points into the country.

He said in Kuala Pilah district alone 48 addicts were arrested last year and nine others were sent for treatment.

Datuk Rais said the State Social Welfare Department had stationed an officer here since last January specially to tackle the drug problem.

Family of Pushers

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Mar 79 p 8

[Text]

SEREMBAN, Fri. — Customs Preventive Branch officers and police today detained a family of five suspected drug pushers and seized 2 lbs of prepared opium worth \$200 at Ulu Temiang here today.

Senior Customs Officer Supt. Abdullah Suboh said those detained included a 55-year-old grandmother, her two sons and two daughters.

He said the family was believed to be one of the main distributors of drugs in town.

Police dogs

Enolk Abdullah said a police dog unit from Kuala Lumpur was also called in to assist in their investigations.

The joint raid was carried out at about 11 a.m., after a tip-off.

Enolk Abdullah said one of the women threw 15 packets of prepared opium outside the window when the officers appeared.

Life for Opium Trafficker

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Mar 79 p 9

[Text]

SEREMBAN, Fri. — Labourer Tan Too Kia, 28, was sentenced to life imprisonment by the High Court here today for trafficking in 34 lb. of raw opium.

Mr. Justice Ajalb Singh found him guilty of trafficking in opium, with two others still at large, at the junction of Jalan Labu at the Federal Highway here on Sept. 20 last year.

He told Tan: "I do not propose to sentence you to death as I'm prepared to accept

your mitigation plea."

Tan's counsel, Mr. Karpal Singh, had said in mitigation that the accused played a minor role in the offence and that he was a first offender.

The court was told yesterday that Tan and two others left Bukit Mertajam by car and collected eight packets of opium before proceeding to Malacca.

Collision

The car collided with another vehicle and turned turtle, dislodging some of the opium, which was kept beneath the back seat.

In his evidence today, Tan said he intended to go to Singapore and had got a lift in the car.

He said he had no knowledge of the opium and only came to know about it after the accident.

Under cross-examination by DPP Suri Yadi Halim Omar, he denied that he was lying in court and had fabricated the story.

He ran away from the scene of the accident because he was frightened and not because he knew that there was "discriminating evidence" against him, he added.

Grandmother Gets Life

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Mar 79 p 9

[Text]

ALOR STAR, Tues. — A 35-year-old woman, Lim Sun Kim, and her lorry driver grandson, Teoh Kai Seong, 23, were sentenced in the High Court today to life imprisonment for trafficking in 1.862 kilograms of heroin.

Mr Justice Gunn Chit Tuan found them guilty of committing the offence at a house in

Jalan Sekerat in Sungai Patani on July 24 1978.

The sentence was to begin from the date of arrest on July 24 1978.

Another accused, Ng Cha Nye, 68, who was jointly tried with Lim, Teoh and another man, Yeoh Cheng Poh, 26, was acquitted and discharged.

Yeoh, an odd-job labourer, was acquitted and discharged without his defence being called yesterday.

Teoh asked the court in

mitigation to consider that he was not "a big fish."

In Lim's case, counsel Mr Karpal Singh urged the court to take her old age into consideration.

DPP Encik Abdul Malik bin Haji Ishak pressed for the death sentence for the two because of the amount of hard drugs involved.

In view of the seriousness of the offence, the court should impose the death sentence to deter others from committing the offence, he said.

Extortion Attempt

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 21 Mar 79 p 3

[Excerpts]

KUCHING. — A 17-year-old who "graduated" from cigarettes to drink and then drugs, burst into a doctor's clinic brandishing a revolver in an attempt to get cash.

After a lot of effort,

Dr Narinder N. G. Majumder persuaded Yassin bin Latip to put the gun back in his trousers; when a nurse entered the room he was grabbed and handed over to the police.

Yassin, of Kenyalang

Park, was bound over on two year's good behaviour, under probation supervision, after being convicted in the High Court of an extortion attempt at Dr Narinder's clinic last November 29.

The boy admitted he began smoking, drinking beer and from these moved to drugs; initially it was ganja but later heroin.

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

TRAFFICKERS SAID ENDANGERING LIVES WITH SMUGGLING METHODS

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 12 Mar 79 p 2

[Article by David Ross]

[Text] New Zealanders caught drug trafficking in the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore make themselves eligible for the death penalty, and in Thailand they can be executed without trial.

While few New Zealanders appear to have been caught smuggling drugs in South-east Asia in recent months, a growing phenomenon here indicates that more and more New Zealanders are returning with a rubber time-bomb in their stomach or rectum.

And compared with the humane death penalty of overseas countries, this emerging band of drug smugglers are carrying the means of a quick but painful death sentence of their own free will.

Not only for the hapless victims of their greed, but also for themselves as they try to avoid detection by New Zealand's expert and dedicated Customs officers.

Amateur

Padded bras, false bottoms in suitcases, and hollow heels on shoes are all methods that belong to the past, methods which only the amateur tries to use.

Today's drug smuggler is making his or her bid for the big profits literally at the risk of his or her own life — heroin and other opiates are

being placed in contraceptives and either swallowed or inserted in the rectum.

One swallow or one shove, and the drug trafficker, a professional, knows a race with time has begun with the odds completely against him, any unknown second being the one which will take his life.

Only last month, a young Wellington man chose to gamble with his life to bring into New Zealand \$43,000 worth of cannabis oil, concealed in 23 contraceptives in his rectum. He took 12 long hours to perform that task; a length of time which would have seemed short compared with the next few hours during which he sweated out five major risks.

Whether in the stomach or rectum, time is the main essence of survival for drug traffickers using the method, as the body's acids are slowly but surely eating away at the membrane-thin rubber.

The slightest split or a pinprick hole in the contraceptive and the drug courier can be dead in minutes as the pure drug seeps out, spreads rapidly through the bloodstream, and ends in death.

Survived

This man survived, but many overseas do not — losing the race with time that starts from that all too often occurrence of the plane being delayed. All he lost was five years of liberty when the Supreme Court disposed of his case.

Already nervous, the courier has been counting those extra minutes and for many it shows on their faces when passing through the outward-bound Customs.

Professionals have taken certain medicines to delay their natural body functions, but a stomach taut with tension does not always obey.

With three major risks overcome — the departure delay, the outward Customs and the toilet — and time still favouring him, the courier still does not relax.

Minutes

Engine problems could see the plane return to Sydney or be diverted from Auckland to Christchurch — more minutes ticking away that only the courier can bear, counting them from the thump of his heart-beat.

Landing in Wellington, this wholesale smuggler — and others before him — had overcome four risks with only the New Zealand Customs to outwit, and he would soon be secluded in a home or motel room handing over his "package".

As the courier stands waiting for the baggage, and shuffles along in the agriculture and immigration queues, the Customs officers have swung into action.

While some check travel papers others are searching the plans to see if anyone got cold feet at the last moment, and dumped drugs; but the all-important check comes with the watching of the passengers.

"We have our methods. We study certain symptoms," is all that Collector of Customs Noel Taylor will disclose. "Our officers have long and specialised training.

"They have become very good at their work.

"We are dealing with more and more professionals as the profits get bigger and bigger — so we are becoming more and more professional.

International

"Our information is international, our equipment and methods the best.

"But, most importantly, we are stepping up what we are doing. The more they try to bring drugs into New Zealand, the more we will step up our activities."

Inconsistencies on his travel papers had him marked for a full baggage search — which proved negative. Not satisfied, Customs officers informed him he

would be subjected to a personal search.

No one is immune from a personal strip search — only last year a serving member of Parliament was taken to a private room and given one.

"Their rights are read out to them and 99 out of 100 cooperate," Mr Taylor explains. "But I give these figures as a percentage example only — very few people are ever strip searched, and even fewer have an internal examination."

Doctor

Those who have the extra search are taken to a doctor for it and also have X-rays taken of the abdominal area.

All procedures which take up more of that valuable time that a courier has never stopped thinking about. Just as Mr Taylor and his investigative officers "never stop thinking about the growing number of young people willing to risk their lives for a profit they may never live to enjoy".

Last year's annual report to Parliament by the Customs Department told, in cold printed language, how much of each type of drug was seized.

Mr Taylor deals with the statistics in emotional human terms, and emphasises each word as he points out: "Drug smuggling into New Zealand is becoming increasingly sophisticated and organised — but so is our department."

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

POLICE 'SUSPECT' HUGE HEROIN SHIPMENT SMUGGLED ABOARD YACHT

Police Refuse Comment

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 28 Mar 79 p 1

[Text]

HEROIN with a street value of between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 has apparently been imported into New Zealand under the unsuspecting noses of the police.

But the police were reluctant today to comment on the incident which took place on the West Coast near Karamea earlier this month.

The National Drug Intelligence Bureau, through Police National Headquarters in Wellington, would not comment on the affair.

And Detective Inspector N J Stokes, of the Christchurch CIB, would say only that one person had been charged and investigations were being made into another person.

He would not comment on how much heroin was involved.

Mr Stokes said that because the person had been charged, he really could not say very much because of the legal problems.

It is understood a suitcase containing the heroin arrived off the West Coast about three weeks ago on a yacht known as Orinda, which had come from South-east Asia.

Mr Stokes confirmed the name of the yacht and said it had previously had another name. He said that the Customs Department seized the yacht in Westport.

It is understood a local policeman inadvertently assisted with the smuggling of the drug when he helped rescue the skipper of the yacht and a woman in the crew when a dinghy bringing them ashore with the heroin, was swamped.

The policeman apparently lent the two some clothes (according to one report, even a police uniform), and arranged for a helicopter to fly the pair and the heroin back to the yacht.

Although it is not known whether the yacht had been deliberately disabled before the dinghy was launched,

the yacht was towed by another vessel to Westport.

Apparently the skipper and the woman then flew with the heroin to Auckland.

There were apparently four people on board the yacht — the skipper, the woman and two crew members. One has been charged.

Suspect in Custody

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 29 Mar 79 p 1

[Text] Auckland, Today (PA)--A man being sought by the police in Auckland for the suspected smuggling of heroin worth \$4,000,000 into New Zealand by yacht, has been arrested.

He was due to appear in the Magistrate's Court today charged with conspiring to import to New Zealand heroin and cannabis, between September 1977 and July 1978.

Police were also questioning him in connection with the arrival of the yacht Orinda at Karamea and Westport earlier this month, when police believe the large drug haul was brought ashore in a suitcase.

Discussions were being held between Auckland detectives and their colleagues in Christchurch--who are investigating the Orinda incident--about whether further charges would be laid against the man.

One of the Orinda's four-person crew was arrested earlier this month of a heroin related charge. The yacht has been detained by the Customs Department at Westport.

Karamea Heroin Inquiry

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 30 Mar 79 p 4

[Text]

PA Auckland

Detectives are not saying whether any heroin has been found by police working on the suspected drug-smuggling case involving the yacht Orinda.

They suspect that heroin, with a street value of more than \$4M, was smuggled into New Zealand from the yacht at Karamea, on the West Coast, about three weeks ago.

Auckland detectives, working in conjunction with their Christchurch colleagues, arrested a man in Auckland on Wednesday. He appeared in court in Auckland yesterday charged with importing heroin into New Zealand at Karamea.

Police seek 2kg of the drug, which they suspect was brought ashore from the Orinda in a suitcase, and brought from the West Coast to Auckland by the skipper of the yacht.

The man in charge of the inquiry in Auckland, Detective Chief Inspector R. N. MacDonald, declined to comment when asked whether any of the alleged Orinda consignment had been found.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

LSD DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL CHARGED IN TRIAL

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 14 Mar 79 p 4

[Text]

Christchurch detectives intercepted 1000 "tickets" of L.S.D. contained in a letter which was later picked up by a Waikuku housewife, the Magistrate's Court heard yesterday.

After the taking of depositions, Wendy Dawn Josephs, aged 26, and Graham John Josephs, a company director, aged 27, denied charges of joint and individual possession of L.S.D. for supply at Leithfield Beach, on Saturday, February 3.

The defendants were committed to the Supreme Court for trial.

Wendy Josephs admitted a further charge of possessing L.S.D. at Waikuku on February 3.

The defence was reserved.

Mr T. M. Abbott appeared for Mrs Josephs and Mr G. H. Nation appeared for Mr Josephs before Messrs F. A. Gunn and L. M. Hooker, Justices of the Peace. Mr D. J. L. Saunders appeared for the Crown.

Mr L. A. Stead, the proprietor of the Waikuku Beach store, said that a brown envelope, address to "M. Watkins," arrived at the shop, which acted as post office for local residents, towards the end of January.

He had stamped the envelope, and filed it away. Witness said that on February 2 detectives came to the store and took the envelope away.

Mrs L. Stead gave evidence that she was serving in the shop when the police

returned the envelope about 8.30 a.m. on February 3. Witness said that about an hour later Mrs Josephs entered the store, asking for any mail in her name. Witness said the defendant also asked for any mail addressed to "M. Watkins" and was given the brown envelope. Mrs Josephs remarked "Oh great, that is the one he has been waiting for."

Detective R. D. Jamieson said that on February 2 he took the brown envelope back to C.I.B. headquarters and found it contained three sheets and one strip of yellow patterned paper, identical to those found in previous seizures of L.S.D. He said there were 1000 "tickets" of L.S.D. Before returning the envelope to the store he replaced the sheets with two pieces of paper of a similar size.

Detective Constable D. J. Chatwin said he was given the envelope to return, and returned with the envelope to the Waikuku store on the morning of February 3. He had then waited in a storeroom on the premises and had seen Mrs Josephs receive the envelope from Mrs Stead.

Evidence was given by Detective Sergeant Q. M. Doig that he saw Mrs Josephs drive away from 11 Queens Avenue, Waikuku, where she lived, about 9.20 a.m. on February 3. Sergeant Doig said that just over an

hour later, he and a Customs officer went to 107 Elizabeth Square, the address at Leithfield where Mr Josephs lived. Witness said he found both defendants in a room with their two children.

Mr Josephs had been holding a canister which, when questioned, he referred to as his "stash." Witness said he then took possession of some tinfoil, tissue paper with brown smears, a rolled up dollar note and the brown envelope, which was lying opened in the room. He said he then questioned Mrs Josephs who denied taking mail addressed to "Watkins" from the store.

Witness said he then took Mrs Josephs back to her own address where another detective handed him a canister, containing eight tickets of L.S.D., which had been found under the house. After further questioning, Mrs Josephs had admitted ownership of these drugs but denied knowledge of any other "acid."

Witness said he questioned Mrs Josephs again on February 9, at the women's prison, about fingerprints found on 72 L.S.D. "tickets" which had been found at the rear of the property at 107 Elizabeth Square. When asked if she knew how her fingerprints got on the "tickets," Mrs Josephs said she had no idea.

Mr M. J. Simpson, a Customs officer, said he had taken part in a search of the property at 107 Elizabeth Square on the morning of February 3. Mr Simpson said that he found an aluminium container in a bush near the back boundary fence of the property. When opened, it had been found to contain a small package wrapped in tin-foil of 72 "tickets" of L.S.D.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

RESEARCH EXPLODES CANNABIS HARMLESS MYTH

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 15 Mar 79 p 1

[Text]

ROTORUA, Today (PA). — Too many people were under the impression that cannabis was harmless and a little would not hurt, according to Detective Sergeant R P Worthington, a Rotorua Police District drug investigator.

However, this was wrong. Mr Worthington said all drug squads throughout the country now had medical evidence to support their view that cannabis was harmful to both the mind and body.

He was referring to a report entitled: "The case against the decriminalisation of cannabis," written by Canadian medical sociologist Mr A McNicholl.

Mr Worthington said the New Zealand Police had never been able to completely disprove the propaganda that cannabis was entirely harmless until Mr McNicholl put out his report, based on his studies.

In his report, Mr McNicholl said the main active ingredient in cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, affected both the brain and the body.

He said the average concentration of THC in ordinary cannabis leaf material was 1 to 3 percent and in hashish it was 4 to 8 percent.

Hashish oil, which is becoming more popular with youthful drug users, contained 30 to 80 percent of THC

and Mr McNicholl said only 5 to 10 mg of the substance was needed to induce cannabis intoxication.

2 fol

"It is wise to note that the average cannabis cigarette contains 20 to 70mg of THC," said Mr McNicholl.

He also dispelled, in his report, the popular myth that cannabis was far less harmful than alcohol.

Mr McNicholl said alcohol was water soluble and was absorbed quickly.

"Cellular damage only occurs with truly abusive intake over a period of many years," he said.

However, THC is fat soluble and McNicholl said this meant molecules could hook on to hydrocarbons in cell membranes and discharge destructive by-products.

He said that because of the high concentration of fat in the brain, with repeated use of the drug there was a gradual build-up.

"With long-term use, it is therefore possible for the users to be intoxicated for several months after use has stopped," Mr McNicholl said.

"To say that cannabis is less toxic than alcohol is irresponsible and ignorant."

Casual cannabis consumption caused intense anxiety, panic and depression and chronic use resulted in mental confusion, poor concentration and difficulty in concept formation and loss of recent memory.

Other effects noticed, said Mr McNicholl, were a false sense of calm and well being, magical thinking and loss of motivation.

Damage

He said there was significant evidence that prolonged use of cannabis could cause permanent brain damage; the smoking of cannabis cigarettes could also severely damage the lungs.

Mr McNicholl said cannabis smoke had a very high tar content and there was also strong evidence that THC reduced the body's capacity to resist infectious diseases.

Mr McNicholl said that in spite of the evidence that cannabis was dangerous to health, campaigns for legalisation were gaining momentum daily.

Mr McNicholl said cannabis should not be legalised. He said the drug problem was only as big as the problem of availability. If this grew, the drug problem would also.

He said nobody was born a drug user, they had to be initiated. ~~He said~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~way~~ ~~to~~ ~~become~~ ~~addicted~~.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE FOR CANNABIS OIL SMUGGLING

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 10 Mar 79 p 2

[Text]

A MAN who imported 470.96 grams of cannabis oil concealed in 23 contraceptives in his rectum was jailed for five years by Mr Justice Quilliam in the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon.

Robert John Coveny, 25, auto-electrician, had earlier pleaded guilty in the Magistrate's Court to the offence and been committed to the Supreme Court for sentence.

On behalf of Coveny, Mr M P Reed said he disputed the value of \$43,000 put on the cannabis by the police. On the basis of his information the highest possible street value was \$24,000.

The accused had at all times co-operated with the authorities in their investigations and it was the first time he had brought drugs into New Zealand, Mr Reed said. It was true that he had travelled in the East, as many young New Zealanders did these days, but strong exception was taken of a suggestion in the probation officers report of something more sinister.

Coveny frankly admitted he had been approached in the East to bring the drug to New Zealand for monetary gain. He was to have been paid \$2000 here, but had not received payment and never would.

Circuitors

It was impossible for Coveny to divulge further information because of danger to himself, counsel added.

For the Crown, Mr KG Stone said Coveny's passport showed constant and extensive travel through the East. The particular journey he had just made was by a circuitous and expensive route and the Court could not overlook the obvious inferences.

His Honour said it was a careful, planned and deliberate offence and he had little doubt that Coveny was not acting in isolation. Others involved may have been more culpable than he, but they would have been unable to act without people like Coveny to do the actual importing.

Cancer

It was carried out at considerable risk to his health and discomfort to himself. A disturbing feature was his reaction when caught and his irresponsible suggestion to the authorities who interviewed him that it was wrong to deprive young people of drugs.

The proliferation of drugs was a positive cancer that was destroying an increasing number of young lives, his Honour said, and he did not for a moment regard cannabis as one of the drugs with no serious implications.

His Honour said it was to the accused's credit that he had pleaded guilty and had co-operated. He acknowledged also that there were aspects of his personality that were inconsistent with the offence. But the Legislature had made it clear that such an offence must attract a substantial sentence and whatever the accused's journeyings in the East, the Court was left with the impression he was no stranger to the drug scene.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

HIGH-GRADE HEROIN CACHE SEIZED IN AUCKLAND

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 18 Apr 79 p 3

[Text] Auckland, 17 Apr (PA)--A million dollar cache of high-grade heroin has been seized in Auckland, police announced tonight.

The police say that with more finds undoubtedly to come, seizures of the illicit drug are heading for an all-time high this year.

Drug detectives acknowledge that the discoveries are linked to an alarming rise in narcotic trafficking.

The seizure of 941 grammes of heroin in the garden of a South Auckland house is believed to have been made last Thursday, but was not announced by police until tonight in the hope that the drug "pushers" would return to the scene. No arrests have been made.

Dogs

The head of the Auckland District CIB, Detective Chief Inspector R N McDonald, said a small quantity of the heroin was found in the garden. Police dogs were called in and two glass jars, containing the bulk of the haul, were found buried a few inches below the surface.

Mr McDonald believes it is the second largest seizure made in New Zealand.

It is believed the drug originated in Bangkok, Thailand, where the cost would have been about \$150,000. When cut with glucose it would represent a street value in New Zealand of \$1,000,000.

The "South Auckland haul" brings heroin seizures in the first quarter of the year to 1298 grammes. The total for the whole of last year was 1945 grammes. Even before the seizure, confiscation of heroin was ahead of the first quarter of 1978.

The number of heroin prosecutions in New Zealand Courts has almost doubled in the past three months, according to figures released by the police yesterday.

In the first three months of this year 208 heroin prosecutions were recorded in New Zealand Courts. This was more than two-thirds the total for the whole of last year, according to a spokesman for the police national headquarters.

In addition, the 1979 total was only 20 fewer than the total for the whole of 1977.

DISTRICTS
Of the 208 offences recorded during January, February and March of this year, 102 were reported in the Auckland area, 19 in Wellington, and eight in Christchurch. The remaining 76 offences were divided among other centres.

At the same time, the number of seizures of certain drugs had increased.

Throughout 1978, the police seized a total of 48.7 kilograms of cannabis, yet in the first

three months of this year the total had reached 35 kilograms.

Seizures of LSD and cannabis oil had increased by 300 percent on last year's figures in the first quarter of 1979.

The Police and Customs have seized 1114 LSD tablets so far this year, compared with 375 in the whole of last year and 489 grams of cannabis oil — all in one seizure — have been confiscated this year, as against 142 grams seized in 1978.

A total of 1535 people appeared on drug-related charges in 1974. This grew to 3226 last year, and in the first quarter of this year alone 1558 offenders appeared.

Factors

The head of the crime directorate at police national headquarters, Detective Chief Superintendent M T Churches, said he believed the figures reflected two factors.

One was the fact that more people across the spectrum of society, — particularly middle-aged people, were appearing on drugs-related charges, while at the same time the in-

crease reflected a stepped-up effort by the police.

"Many of the convictions recorded and seizures made are the result of more effective anti-drug policing," said Mr. Churcher, "but while we would like to believe this is the total explanation I'm afraid that it's not so.

"We must face the fact that the drug scourge has a deadly grip on many hundreds of young New Zealanders, and we, the police, must appeal for greater public support in light of the very real threat which exists to thousands more.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

HEROIN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 23 Mar 79 p 4

[Text]

A SENTENCE of four years' jail was imposed by Mr Justice Jeffries in the Supreme Court today on Keith Robert Wilson, 29, driving instructor, on a charge of possessing heroin for purposes of supply.

Wilson had pleaded guilty in the Magistrate's Court and been committed for sentence in the Supreme Court.

Defence counsel, Mr A G Sheriff, said Wilson had been used by others and was involved only on the periphery of the operation. The quantity of heroin involved was not quite four grams, on which the police placed a value of \$1600. Wilson was involved in delivering it from the roadside at Levin to the roadside in Wellington, and his apprehension had been fortuitous, he being stopped in a police road-block following a robbery.

Wilson knew nothing about

the destination of the heroin, said Mr Sheriff, and there was no pecuniary gain for himself, his only payment being a small quantity of the drug for his own use.

His Honour said there was no doubt much truth in the claim that Wilson was on the periphery, but he was nevertheless an essential part of the operation and a connecting link.

Wilson came of a good home and was talented and intelligent, in fact he thought so highly of his own intelligence that he told the probation officer he thought he could become involved in drugs without harm to himself. But he now knew he could not stand in the furnace without being burned, His Honour added.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

FOUR-YEAR JAIL TERM ON HEROIN CHARGE

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 17 Mar 79 p 11

[Text]

Kevin Martin Taylor, 30, painter, was sentenced to four years' jail by Mr Justice O'Regan in the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon on two charges of possessing heroin for the purpose of supply and of being in unlawful possession of a Beretta automatic pistol.

Maureen Rae Barclay, 26, housewife, who had been jointly convicted with him by a jury last week, was put on probation for 18 months, a special condition being that she perform 120 hours of community work as directed.

Evidence was given at the trial that when police executed a search warrant on a house in Porirua occupied by the two accused, Barclay attempted to throw away a sachet of heroin. The pistol was found in a holster hanging in the hall cupboard.

Trend

On behalf of the accused, Mr J R Billington said the amount of heroin found, 0.63 grams only just exceeded the amount of 0.5 grams which the statute prescribed as raising the presumption of possession for supply and the value was only between \$300 and \$400.

For the Crown, Mr C H Toogood said the police were becoming increasingly concerned at the relationship of firearms and drugs and it was a trend

the Courts should take into account.

In passing sentence, his Honour said that Taylor was no stranger to the Courts and had a number of convictions for dishonesty, all but one of which were prior to 1970. But he had no previous convictions for drug offences.

Money

The fact that he was an industrious and hardworking fellow and a good provider was not sufficient to save him from a jail sentence. It seemed the attraction of a quick and dishonest dollar had drawn him to the drug scene where the profits were quick and handsome.

A substantial sum of money had been found at his home but it had not been established that it had to do with the drug offence. His Honour made an order of forfeiture of the pistol and ammunition.

His Honour said the Barclay had no previous convictions. She had lived with Taylor since she was 16 and they had two children aged nine and seven. She was said to be a devoted, caring, and dutiful mother. The action she took when the police arrived was due to panic and fear for the security of herself and her children.

CSO: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

DRUG CHARGE--Auckland, 21 Mar (PA)--An Avondale man charged with selling heroin was today committed in custody to the Supreme Court for trial following a depositions hearing in the Magistrate's Court. He was Benjamin Rudolph Paul Cummings, 25, fitter welder, who pleaded not guilty to two counts of selling the drug. The hearing was before Mr J. Delowe and Mr R. Henshall, Justices of the Peace. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 22 Mar 79 p 14]

JAIL FOR DRUG OFFENSES--Auckland, 24 Mar (PA)--Two men who appeared before Mr Justice Vautier in the Supreme Court at Auckland yesterday were each sentenced to terms of imprisonment for heroin offences. Barry Thomas Gemmell, 28, had pleaded guilty to two charges of supplying heroin. A total of two grams of the drug was involved. His counsel, Mr E. P. Leary, said Gemmell was a drug offender who sold in order to fuel his own habit. The Judge said he had to take account that a substantial quantity of heroin was involved in the offences. He sentenced Gemmell to a total of two and a half years' imprisonment. Michael Edmond Luton, 28, had pleaded guilty to one charge of possessing heroin for supply. His Honour said Luton had an appalling list of previous convictions and had become a public menace. He sentenced him to four years' imprisonment. Cr Leary also appeared for Luton. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 26 Mar 79 p 14]

CONCERN ABOUT HEROIN--Auckland (PA)--Forty New Zealanders died from drug abuse and one in every 10 drug arrests involved heroin last year, according to the Commissioner of Police (Mr R. J. Walton). He said that heroin and cocaine trends caused the greatest concern for the police, there being 303 heroin-related arrests last year compared with 24 in 1974. The drug problem, he said, has been steadily building from 26 arrests in 1966 to 3,220 last year. "Our No. 1 objective is the drug problem and preventing supplies reaching New Zealand." Mr Walton was speaking at the Auckland Rotary Club. He said the new liaison officer posted in Bangkok last year had paid "excellent dividends" for the police. In Auckland last year 13 of 14 major armed robberies had been drug-related. [Excerpt] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 28 Mar 79 p 4]

LETTERS CONTAIN HEROIN--Palmerston N, 28 Mar (PA)--Customs interception of two letters containing heroin from Bangkok to a Palmerston North box number resulted in a local man being found guilty today on two charges of importing the drug. The accused, David John Humphrey Taylor, 28, process worker, had pleaded not guilty. He was remanded in custody before Mr Justice Ongley and a jury in the Supreme Court, to Friday for sentence. Taylor is one of 25 people arrested on drug charges in which an undercover policeman was involved. The constable operated in the city from September, 1977, to October, 1978, infiltrating the city drug scene. The Court was told of a letter sent by Taylor to another Palmerston North man living in Bangkok, Paul Duckmanton, in which Taylor said Duckmanton would have to be sure he could beat the "dogs" and electronic scanners. He also wrote about a 50-50 "split of the bread." [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 29 Mar 79 p 14]

SEAMAN ON DRUG CHARGE--Christchurch, 28 Mar (PA)--An unemployed seaman was remanded in custody for a week when he appeared in the Magistrate's Court today on three drugs charges. The seaman, whose name was suppressed in the meantime, is accused of importing heroin into New Zealand on or about March 9 near Karamea on the West Coast. He is also accused of using heroin on or about November 26, 1978, and smoking cannabis on March 14. Counsel (Mr J. Cadenhead) sought the remand for a week, pointing out that because of the major charge any application for bail had to be made to the Supreme Court. Sergeant M. B. Caldwell said only the Supreme Court had jurisdiction regarding bail on an importing-heroin charge of such a nature. However, wherever the bail application was made it would be opposed by the police. Mr Cadenhead: "Of course it does not necessarily mean that an opposition will be successful." Mr J. S. Bisphan, SM, remanded the seaman in custody in the meantime. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 29 Mar 79 p 14]

HEROIN CONVICTION--Auckland (PA)--Heroin importers can expect no second chance from the courts, Mr Justice Vautier has warned in the Supreme Court at Auckland. He was sentencing an Auckland man, Glen Anthony Dudley, aged 29, for importing heroin with a potential street value of more than \$400,000. Dudley, who had admitted the charge, was jailed for five years and a half. Counsel (Mr E. P. Leary) said Dudley was tempted to commit the offence because he was hopelessly in debt. Dudley was a courier, not the principal offender. His Honour said that to give couriers a second chance would result in their wholesale recruitment by principals. Dudley was expected to make a substantial gain by importing 272 grams of pure heroin. The narcotic was valued at \$44,000 but would be broken down until it was only 10 per cent pure and sold on the street for \$440,000, said his Honour. [Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 31 Mar 79 p 4]

HEROIN CHARGE--Auckland, 5 Apr (PA)--A self-employed property developer was today further remanded in custody to April 12 on a charge of importing heroin into this country at Karamea, Westland, in March. Brian James

Curtis, 45, of Glen Eden, appeared before Mr J. H. Hall, SM, in the Magistrate's Court. Mr R. S. Walker, for the accused, said he understood another charge had arisen in the South Island and police were seeking another remand for this reason. The trial, he said, could take place in another centre. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 6 Apr 79 p 5]

HEROIN SENTENCE--Hamilton, 7 Apr (PA)--A Hamilton heroin addict and dealer, Thomas Keith Blight, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment when he appeared in the Supreme Court here yesterday. Blight, a 27-year-old fitter welder, who pleaded guilty to charges of selling, possessing and using heroin and one charge of possessing needles and syringes for the use of the drug. Blight had applied to be sentenced in the Supreme Court without a depositions hearing. In sentencing Blight, Mr Justice Bain said the charges followed Blight's detection by police when he was selling the drug in Hamilton during January. A subsequent search revealed needles and syringes hidden under a beach buggy and Blight was found to have the needle marks of an addict, His Honour said. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 9 Apr 79 p 48]

CSO: 5320

PAKISTAN

FULL SUPPORT TO UN ANTIDRUG MOVES PLEDGED

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 16 Apr 79 p 4

[Text] United Nations, April 15: Pledging full support to United Nations efforts in tackling drug problems, Pakistan last night emphasised the need for reducing illicit demand.

Speaking in a debate on the question of narcotic drugs, Mr. Azmat Hassan said that these efforts needed to be improved and intensified to reduce the availability of and demand for drugs on national, regional and global levels.

The discussions was held in the social committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in which the commission on narcotic drugs has submitted five draft resolutions. These, among other matters, deal with maintenance of a world-wide balance between the supply of narcotic drugs and the legitimate demand for those drugs for medical and scientific purposes and co-ordination in the field of drug abuse control.

Pakistan is a member of the commission as well as the sub-commission on illicit drug traffic in the Middle and Far East. Sahibzada Rauf Ali, head of the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board, attended the commission's meetings in Geneva. Pakistan has also co-sponsored most of the commission's resolutions.

In his speech to the committee, Mr. Azmat Hassan said that efforts needed to be improved and intensified to reduce the availability of and the demand for drugs on national, regional and global levels. The year 1978 marked the first five years of the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board, which had made considerable strides in the fight against illicit drug trafficking in Pakistan. There were definite indications that in 1978 the activities of the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board prevented the movement of raw opium from the production area to a considerable extent.

He noted a dollars 5.7 million multisectoral programme which Pakistan had initiated with the help of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) aimed at crop substitution, which, he said, had clearly demonstrated the feasibility of redirecting the economy of the poppy growing area without detriment to the social and economic life of the people.

Pakistan would spare no effort in cooperating effectively with the United Nations system in tackling drug problems, Mr. Hassan said. Increasing regional and international cooperation was a major component of the fight against international illicit traffic. Besides effective enforcement the best antidote to illicit traffic was the reduction in illegal demand.

Referring to the strategy adopted by his country in preventing the movement of opium and cannabis into illicit channels, the Pakistan delegate said the commission had rightly noted that complete success of those efforts was totally dependent on "the consistent reduction of illicit demand elsewhere."--APP

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

BIG CHARAS HAUL MADE NEAR PESHAWAR

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 79 p 4

[Text] Peshawar, April 1: The Peshawar Police has seized 25 maunds of charas, 25 airconditioners and other stationery worth about rupees one and half crores in pre-dawn operation on the Peshawar-Kohat road yesterday.

Police sources said that the seizure was made from a Karachi bound truck near village Badaber, about eight miles from Peshawar.

The other seized goods included 14 bags of biri leaf 34 bags of tobacco 50,000 yards of foreign cloth and about 12,000 foreign-made 'dopattas'.

Three occupants of the truck including its driver have been arrested.

It is reported that a special police picquet near village Badaber made the haul from a truck, coming from bara towards Peshawar, for onward transportation to Karachi. The truck No PRA-3628 was plying without number plate. The truck has been impounded.

The contraband charas, in 62 small bags, airconditioners and cloth were concealed under the tobacco and biri leaf bags.

The arrested persons are Mohammad Khan driver, Gulber Khan and Bahader Sher--APP.

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

BAN ON OPIUM SALE AFFECTS ADDICTS, LABORERS, HOUSEWIVES

Karachi THE SUN in English 13 Apr 79 p 6

[Text]

LAHORE, April 12: House-wives figures third on the list of those affected on account of ban on the sale and consumption of opium, writes an APP correspondent.

Though not consumers themselves they bought opium to administer to their jittery infants to make them sleep.

Other categories of people who consumed opium as identified by the various government agencies include hardcore addicts, beggars, labourers and Hakims.

Like the house-wives the hardcore addicts have felt the pinch.

Some House-wives spent a substantial sum of money on buying opium to administer it to their children to be able to attend to their household work. Many of them would lock up their infants in the dark and dingy dwellings after administering them opium and would then leave for doing manual work in the nearby localities.

The sample surveys done in the past identified those as hardcore addicts whose systems had become wholly dependent on opium. The non-availability of opium in their case could result in death.

The beggars took to opium ostensibly in the belief that opium helped overcome malnutrition. Those doing the hard manual labour thought that the use of opium produced a stimulating effect and helped them bear the strain of work.

The hakims and a few pharmaceutical establishments made use of opium in the preparation of medicines.

According to the statistics available nearly 70,000 to 80,000 people bought opium at the licenced shops. Of them the number of hardcore addicts was around 20,000.

Considering every life precious the government has embarked upon a programme for the treatment and rehabilitation of those hard-cores to wean them away from opium addiction gradually. In the hospitals or drug abuse centres opium tablets distinguishable from illicit opium are also being issued to them against "prescription cards".

The medical officers have been given strict instructions to issue such prescriptions in extreme cases of necessity.

Social welfare agencies and local voluntary organisations have been required by the government to come forward and assist the

medical officers in the hospitals to cure addicts from the habit of this deadly intoxicating substance.

Medical experts generally believe that through proper treatment and education the opium users can be helped to leave this habit making them normal, healthy and useful members of the society.

In the results reported from the treatment centres indicate that there has been quite an encouraging response from the addicts and most of them wanted to get rid of the vice through medical treatment.

The reports about deaths of addicts on account of the new policy also appeared to be very much exaggerated. Even normal deaths of addicts were attributed to the non-availability of the intoxicating substances.

As a result of the introduction of the new scheme on the Islamization of some laws in the field of drug abuse the provincial exchequer suffered a financial loss of over rupees two crore which was recovered through sale of opium at licenced shops numbering about 200 in the Punjab alone.

The treatment of about 10,000 hardcore addicts so far registered in the hospitals and other centres shows the innate desire of the opium users to get rid of this habit, as the ban on the free use of opium they consider a blessing. The success of the new scheme could bring relief and solace to thousands of families in the country.

The revenue considerations could justifiably be ignored for the benefits accruing to the nation under the new scheme.—APP

CSO: 5300

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

ITALIAN ARRESTED--Peshawar, April 10: The customs authorities today arrested an Italian national on the charge of smuggling of 3500 grams of charas valuing at Rs. 50,000. The Customs sources said that Mr. Pierre George, who had arrived here from Kabul a few days back, was arrested while proceeding to Islamabad, on his way to Holland. The contraband charas was concealed in the secret cavities of his box.--APP [Text] [Karachi THE SUN in English 11 Apr 79 p 6]

CSO: 5300

SINGAPORE

HEROIN PROBLEM CHECKED, DROP IN NUMBER OF ADDICTS

Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Mar 79 p 8

[Text]

THE heroin problem in Singapore has been quite successfully checked, with a significant drop in the number of new drug addicts and the number of old addicts relapsing.

As from last October, new addicts accounted for about 17 per cent of those caught, which compares favourably with a near 33 per cent for the previous year.

These figures to show the containment of heroin abuse were released yesterday by the director of the Central Narcotics Bureau, Mr Tee Tua Ba, at the 10th National Medical Convention and Medic-Asia '79 Exhibition symposium on the Social Aspects of Drug Abuse.

Mr Tee said the number of old addicts who had been re-arrested for taking heroin has also decreased. The recidivism rate has decreased to 34 per cent last year as compared to 44 per cent the previous year.

Substitutes

He also gave figures to show the decline of trafficking activities, with 289 traffickers and pushers arrested last year against 348 in 1977.

"The heroin problem has been checked by the sustained and combined efforts mounted by the Central Narcotics Bureau, police and customs," he said.

As there is a scarcity of heroin supplies, ex-heroin addicts are resorting to various substitutes such as opium pellets, cannabis, alcohol and depressant drugs as an interim measure.

"These ex-heroin addicts will return to heroin abuse once heroin supplies are allowed to be freely available. We must therefore be continuously vigilant if we are to be on top of the drug situation at all times," Mr Tee concluded.

A paper on Drug Abuse in Hongkong, presented by Dr J. B. Hollinrake, medical superintendent of the British colony's Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (Sarda), which is akin to the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (Sana), served to highlight the close similarity of the drug problem in both countries.

Of a total population of over 4.5 million, about twice that of Singapore's, Hongkong has an estimated 35,000 to 50,000 drug addicts, compared to Singapore's estimated 10,600 active heroin abusers in 1977.

Like Singapore, heroin abuse in Hongkong constitutes the single biggest headache in the war on narcotics.

The heroin threat in both countries also surfaced in the 1970's, with Hongkong having 79 per cent of its addict population on heroin in 1974 — the same year that the drug was found to be spreading like wild fire here.

Sophistication

And like Singapore, the Hongkong drug problem has been contained and headway is being made towards its reduction.

Dr V. Navaratnam, who delivered the report on behalf of president of the Malaysia Drug Abuse Association, Mr Rais Yatim, said that in Malaysia, drug injections are taken by addicts to signify sophistication in the "drug sub-culture."

In order to obtain a closer picture on what was occurring among a youthful population, a study was taken to determine the extent of drug misuse occurring among Malaysian schoolchildren.

The study showed that an overall 11.5 per cent of the 18,100 schoolchildren in the sample were abusing drugs.

CSO: 5300

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

U.S.-TRAINED CUSTOMS UNIT--A special unit is to be set up in the Customs to deal with drug trafficking. Principal Collector of Customs H. B. Dissanayake has already finalised plans to establish this unit and is sending a hand-picked team of Customs officers to the United States for specialised training. The team is to undergo a comprehensive course in drug detection procedures and related matters under the tutelage of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. The team which left for Washington last week comprises Navaratna Senerath, Chief Assistant Charges Office, S. Selvaratnam, Assistant Collector of Customs, H. Jayawardena, Assistant Charges Officer of Customs and W. D. Amarapala, Chief Exports Officer. According to Customs sources the need to establish a special Customs unit has arisen due to the increased number of drug detections. The number of detections of drug abuse and transportation of drugs by people coming into the country from Nepal is also on the increase. Although Colombo is not a port where the export of illicit drugs originates, it is said to be rapidly becoming a port of transit for drug carriers. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 9 Apr 79 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BANGKOK TO EXECUTE THAI, FOREIGN DRUG TRAFFICKERS

New 'Get-Tough' Policy

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Mar 79 p 3

[Text]

All drug traffickers operating in Thailand can now expect the death penalty if they are caught.

The Thai Government has moved to strengthen the provisions of its Constitution to make the death penalty mandatory. Executions will be carried out by a machine gun squad.

Under the old Constitution, Article 27 of which dealt with drug offences, the death penalty was not mandatory although it was provided for.

In practice the Thai Government and the courts were often lenient with European and Australian drug traffickers, preferring to impose a lengthy jail sentence to avoid diplomatic problems.

But now the Thais have decided the only policy is to get tough and all nationalities will be included in the new legislation.

Warnings Deemed Unnecessary

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Mar 79 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

TRAFFICKING in heroin is a vile business and those who do it deserve no sympathy. Thailand has given clear notice to the world that it will extend neither sympathy nor leniency to heroin traffickers in future. Its new constitution will make death the mandatory sentence for the offence — death by machine-gunning, that being the way the Thais do it.

As our story today tells, the Thai Government has made clear that the law will be applied equally to all nationalities — as it should be. In the

past, Europeans have managed to obtain more favored treatment than some other nationals because their consulates and embassies have been better able to "heavy" the Thai authorities. This will no longer apply.

Our Department of Foreign Affairs will do its best to make Australians aware of the fate that awaits them. Mr Peacock has, in fact, made statements in the past, warning that travellers must accept the laws of the land they are in. But, really, the warnings should not be necessary. Traffickers must be aware of the risk they run - just as they must be aware of the suffering and degradation they cause by their filthy trade. We should not waste effort or pity on them.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

UDON THANI OPIUM SEIZED, FOUR ARRESTED

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 4 Apr 79 p 8 BK

[Text]

FOUR men were arrested red-handed by Crime Suppression police yesterday when they were waiting to deliver nearly 50 kgs of cooked opium to an agent at a bowling centre on Ekamai Road.

The four were identified as Anant Tangkrue, 39, Ek Padung-ek, 40, Somya Intarajmahawong, 34, and Suwan Ritnarin, 56.

Police said the four took the opium, weighing 49,470 kgs, from the northeastern province of

Udon Thani. They were hired by a drug dealer to deliver the opium, neatly packed in 51 packages, to an agent at the Sukhumvit Bowl.

They hid the opium, estimated to be worth about 148,410 baht, at the house of EK Padung-ek in Soi Udomsuk off Sukhumvit Road before the delivery.

They were later taken to the Crime Suppression Division and were charged with illegal possession of drug.



THE FOUR drug suspects (from left), Suwan Ritnarin, Anant Tangkrue, Somya Intarajmahawong and Ek Padung-ek, with the seized opium at the Crime Suppression Division.

THAILAND

MEN ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING THREE TONS OF MARIJUANA

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 25 Apr 79 pp 1, 8 BK

[Text]

FOUR MEN were arrested at a rented house on Suthisarn Road yesterday while they were packing three tons of marijuana for smuggling out of the country.

Acting on a tip-off, Crime Suppression police raided the house in Soi Kobfah off Suthisarn Road and nabbed the four men red-handed.

The four, identified as Chalaw Wanlapanond, 30, Pricha Vikkoldanond, 23, Sompote Taptim, 27, and Isma-el Shalf-aree, 21, were packing the marijuana into four big tin boxes, preparing for transportation by a freighter to the United States.

Police said the marijuana, estimated to be worth

about nine million baht in local market, was purchased from the Northeast. Police said they had earlier succeeded in smuggling three shipments of marijuana through the same channel out of the country.

MARIJUANA

A Thai national, identified as Somsith sae Tang, and another foreigner were masterminds of the smuggling, police said.

The suspects said they were given 12,000 baht each to handle the transportation of the marijuana.

Police also found 200,000 baht worth of packing equipment in the house.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

WAREHOUSE SEIZURE--About 200 kilos of marijuana packed into secret compartments in nine crates were uncovered by Customs officials at the Thai International warehouse yesterday. The marijuana was packed in crates addressed to Fujita International Import-Export Company of Chicago and with the sender's name given as the Union Export Company of Singapore. The crates were to have been put aboard a Swissair flight scheduled to leave Bangkok at about 9 a.m. yesterday. Customs officials said the crates had been secretly brought into warehouse number three. They were opened after officials were tipped off about their contents. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Apr 79 p 1 BK]

MAE SAI RAW OPIUM--Chiang Rai--Border Patrol Police seized more than 26 kilogrammes of heroin and another well over 130 kilogrammes of raw opium after a raid was launched in a hilltribe village in Mae Sai District here on Tuesday, it was reported today. No suspect has been arrested during the operation but police seized many M16 rifles and much ammunition found in a house in the village. The raid was made by a 20-man police team headed by Pol Maj Gen Vichai Vichaithanaphat, commander of the Border Patrol Police Zone 3 flown by two helicopters from a base in Chiang Mai on Tuesday afternoon to Pa Mee mountain in Mae Sai District here. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 5 Apr 79 p 3 BK]

MARIHUANA SEIZED--Customs officials yesterday seized 200 kilos of marijuana which were to be smuggled out of the country via a US-bound plane. The consignment, comprising nine neatly sealed boxes, were declared to Customs officials as stoneware from Singapore. A tag attached to the consignment read: Singapore-Tokyo-Chicago. Officials said the marijuana, estimated to be worth about one million baht, was taken in from Singapore by the Union Export Corporation. Another company--Fujita International Import-Export--was to have received the consignment in Chicago. The consignment was confiscated when it was on its way to Swissair. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 10 Apr 79 p 3 BK]

UDON THANI MARIHUANA--Udon Thani Provincial police yesterday seized two tons of marijuana worth over two million baht aboard a ten-wheel truck which they believed was bound for a destination in Bangkok. Muang District police chief, Pol Lt Col Pichai Sunthornviboon, intercepted the truck,

driven by Vichit Malingarm, while running on Nitayo Road in the provincial town at about 6 p.m. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 7 Apr 79 p 1]

ITALIAN, FRENCHMAN SENTENCED--The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced an Italian and a Frenchman to two years and eight months' imprisonment each after they were found guilty of possessing heroin and attempting to smuggle it out of the country. The two men were arrested separately on December 27 last year after Customs officials found the heroin hidden on their persons. The Italian tourist, Prest Cammelo, was arrested after officials uncovered 22 grammes of No. 4 heroin in a condom inserted in his rectum. The officials also found 44.5 grammes of No. 4 heroin on the Frenchman, Geoffroy Dascal who reportedly hid the drugs in the false heels of his shoes. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 79 p 3 BK]

AUSTRALIAN HEROIN SUSPECTS--Bangkok, Wednesday 4--Two Melbourne men accused of attempted heroin trafficking were remanded today in custody until April 2. Donald Worcester, 42, of Lillydale, and George Bullock, 37, of Thornbury, have been in prison at Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, since their arrest on January 16. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Mar 79 p 8]

POLICE RAID HEROIN REFINERY--Chiang Rai--A 30-man border patrol police team managed to seize a considerable amount of narcotics and some war weapons during a raid on Doi Pami in Mae Sai district on Wednesday, police reported yesterday. The team flew onto Doi Pami in a helicopter and launched thorough operations to eliminate illicit drugs on the mountainous terrain. Some 26.3 kilogrammes of heroin and 136 kilogrammes of raw opium were discovered in a house. Its dwellers, however, had left before the arrival of the police. Three M-16 assault rifles with 120 rounds of ammunition and 6 automatic pistols were also found in the house. Doi Pami was described by police as an area full of heroin refineries. Police managed to confiscate a large amount of narcotics during a raid last year, but no one was arrested. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 6 Apr 79 p 3 BK]

TWO ITALIANS ARRESTED--Two Italians allegedly belonging to the Italian Mafia drug syndicate, and five Thais were yesterday officially charged in the criminal court with possessing heroin with intent to sell. The Italians, Ferrari Marco and Darco Aniello, were arrested with their alleged five Thai accomplices, Sing Praphaiphong, Chamnan Phetchathi, Somnuk Trongbuntoem, Phrom Sonsakda and his wife Mrs Thongsai in a series of raids in Bangkok metropolis and Thon Buri area on December 18-19 last year. The public prosecutor told the court yesterday that during police interrogation, Phrom and Aniello pleaded guilty while the other five denied all charges against them. [Text] [Bangkok POST in English 11 Apr 79 p 3 BK]

CANADA

THREE MISTAKES PUT HASHISH KING IN JAIL

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 10 Apr 79 p 38

[Text]

TORONTO (CP) -- An empire built on smoke collapsed when its leader went to prison in Canada.

With contacts in Holland, Belgium, India and Switzerland as well as England, the United States and Canada, Gurdev Singh Sangha controlled a hashish-smuggling network that had made him a millionaire.

He owned hotels in Europe and apartment buildings in Amsterdam and Hamilton, Ont. His Swiss bank account contained \$2 million when he was arrested in Belgium on a trip to buy a new Mercedes Benz.

On Jan. 14, he was sentenced in Toronto to 14 years in prison and fined \$500,000 for conspiracy to import hashish.

He was caught because of his trip for the new car.

Sangha operated his business from the Netherlands, which has no extradition treaty with Canada. Through a conspirator in India, he arranged to buy

hashish from dealers in New Delhi for \$100 a pound.

Concealing the drugs in oxygen tanks and bolts of cloth, his employees arranged shipments to Canada through brokers who assumed they were handling legitimate goods.

"His source seemed to be limitless," said Don Heaton, superintendent of the RCMP drug squad in Toronto.

When the shipments reached their destinations, the hashish was sold for \$1,000 a pound and then re-sold for more than \$10 a gram.

Money from the drugs was returned to Sangha hidden in new cars.

Sangha already had been in prison. In 1972 he spent two productive years in a British jail for attempting to smuggle 413 pounds of hashish into England.

He used his time to earn a doctorate in laser technology, adding to

science degrees he had obtained in 1964 from University of London.

Three mistakes led to Sangha's arrest and eventual conviction.

Although he conducted his business in Punjabi he used the telephone to contact his agents. Taps in Holland and Canada led to his detection.

His second mistake came when he left the British prison in 1972. As soon as he moved to the Netherlands, Dutch authorities were notified.

They learned that he was conducting much of his business in Canada and notified the RCMP in 1976.

That year the RCMP in Ottawa seized 30 bolts of cloth containing 450 pounds of hashish. At the same time, police at Toronto International Airport were watching 41 bolts containing drugs worth more than \$2.2 million.

Despite their efforts, Sangha was unperturbed.

His wife was living in England where his two sons attended Eaton and University of Manchester. His Swiss bank account was intact. His business interests were thriving.

Two years after he learned of the RCMP's interest in his activities, Sangha made a quick trip to the Netherlands to pick up his Mercedes Benz in Luxembourg.

Dutch authorities notified Belgian border guards and Sangha was arrested on an Interpol warrant from Canada.

That was Sangha's third mistake — leaving his haven in the Netherlands. Belgium has an extradition treaty with Canada.

If arrested in the Netherlands, Sangha faced a maximum sentence of two years in jail for dealing in a soft drug.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

SEVEN FACE TRIAL ON DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 18 Apr 79 p 5

[Article by Dave Rogers]

[Text]

Six Ottawa residents and a Toronto area man will stand trial on narcotics trafficking charges next fall after almost two years of controversial pre-trial motions.

A defence attempt to prevent prosecution short-cuts failed last month and Mr. Justice Thomas Callon of the Supreme Court of Ontario ruled Tuesday the trial for all seven will begin Sept. 5.

The accused are: Michael and Dorothy Saikaly, both of 2051 Delmar Dr.; Souhiel Saikely of Alta Vista Drive; Hafiz Saikaly, 1971 St. Laurent Blvd.; Nicholas Saikaly, of no fixed address; lawyer Richard Bosada, 30 Qualicum St., Nepean, and Michael Thornton of RR2, Newtonville.

They are charged with conspiring to import nar-

cotics into Canada and conspiring to traffic in narcotics.

All except Bosada were arrested in June, 1977, after a shipment of more than two metric tons of hashish worth about \$10 million was seized on the New York docks.

Federal Crown attorney Graham Pineos said there was a conspiracy to traffic in the drug in Canada, the United States and Lebanon.

The seven accused co-conspirators stood impassively in and around the prisoner's box as Callon told them to prepare for the trial which is expected to last three to six months..

CSO: 5320

CANADA

DENTIST ADMITS GUILT TO REDUCED DRUG CHARGES

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 19 Apr 79 p 14

[Text] London, Ont. (CP)--A local dentist, charged with importing cocaine and hashish and possession of both for the purpose of trafficking, pleaded guilty to reduced charges Wednesday following negotiations between his lawyer and the Crown.

Lorne Jay Shankman, 30, pleaded guilty to attempting to import the drugs illegally into Canada and to possession of cocaine. He originally was charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking.

He also pleaded guilty to possession of hashish for the purpose of trafficking as charged.

The charges and the pleas were changed one day after Shankman's county court jury trial began.

After hearing an hour of evidence Wednesday, federal prosecutor Claude Pensa requested a brief adjournment.

Before the jury returned to the court room, Arthur Maloney, Shankman's lawyer, told Judge Gordon Killeen that his client was prepared to plead guilty to three reduced charges and guilty as charged on the fourth.

Shankman was arrested here May 2 after a liquor case containing hashish and a small package of cocaine was found May 1 at Heathrow Airport in London, England.

Pensa told court Tuesday the Crown's case would prove that the package had been forwarded by Shankman through London, England, to Montreal and then to this southern Ontario city.

Evidence showed that the parcel was intercepted at Heathrow where officials discovered its contents and sent it to Montreal through official channels.

Shankman filed a missing baggage claim when he arrived in Montreal and Pensa said he was arrested here after he picked up the delayed parcel.

Killeen told the jury there had been an interruption in the chain of events at Heathrow and that guilty pleas to attempted importing were appropriate.

CSO: 5320

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The police have arrested Juan Carlos Kernasisky, 24 years of age, for selling marihuana and opium. Gustavo Rizzi, alias El Gordo, 42 years of age was also arrested for providing the drugs he purchased in Paraguay. [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 4 May 79 p 7 PY]

DRUG ADDICTS ARRESTED--The police carried out an operation in the Magic Club Dance Hall in Vicente Lopez, Buenos Aires, arresting several drug addicts and seizing 150 grams of marihuana and 20 grams of cocaine base. [Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 4 May 79 p 11 PY]

CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN BORDER AREA

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Apr 79 p 24

[Text] A powerful international drug trafficking ring worth millions of sucres was discovered by the Customs Military Police, according to its commander, Col Jaime Rosero B. Five drug traffickers were arrested; and three Toyota pickup trucks, whose beds had been equipped with false bottoms, were confiscated. These trucks were used to transport the drug, cocaine paste to Colombia, from which point it was to be sent to the United States, a purchasing and consuming center. The police also seized 686,000 sucres in bills of 500 and 1,000 sucres which were bound in packets, wrapped in plastic containers and cached in the false bottom of one of the trucks.

Last Friday, in the Cayambe region, at a place called Itchitos, the police stopped a red Toyota pickup truck with license plate P-66495. When the truck was searched the agents found that its wood bed had a false bottom. When the bed was removed, the police found 685,000 sucres in bills in a compartment which ran the length of the body, with a metal plate on the top and bottom sides. The driver of the truck, identified as Cesar Alberto Baca Torres, was arrested.

When questioned, the prisoner admitted that he is a member of a powerful ring of drug traffickers who traveled in pickup trucks to buy cocaine in Huaquillas, Santa Rosa and border sites in the southern part of the country.

The cocaine, worth several million sucres, was handed over to Colombian Jose Miel Salazar, the ringleader, at an isolated country villa called Pilman, located near Pasto. There the drug traffickers removed the truck beds and recovered the drug which was packed in a manner suitable for shipment to the United States.

Two Other Vehicles

When the home of the prisoner was searched, the Customs Military Police found useful documents which led to the seizure of two other pickup trucks with false-bottom beds. One of the pickup trucks is yellow and the other red; they do not have license plates.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/09: CIA-RDP82-00850R000100050033-9

2 OF 2

- In addition to the confiscation of the pickup trucks, there are five drug traffickers in prison who will be investigated.

- It was learned that as the result of a joint action in Guayaquil, other drug traffickers from the same ring were arrested and other pickup trucks seized.

The commander general of the Customes Police, Col Jaime Rosero, said that as soon as the investigative process has been concluded extensive information will be provided concerning this ring of international drug traffickers.

8143
CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ESCAPE FROM QUITO PRISON

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Apr 79 p 26

[Text] Eight international drug traffickers escaped from prisons in this city during the past few days. The prisoners, who are now fugitives, had been arrested after tireless and unceasing efforts on the part of Pinchincha Interpol agents as they attempted to transport more than 150 kilograms of cocaine to Colombia and from there to the United States.

The confiscated drugs were worth more than 200 million sucres on the consumer market. Prison authorities refused to receive the information service of this newspaper to avoid giving explanations of these mysterious escapes which were kept secret.

No one was able to explain the massive escape which took place at noon on 9 March when most of the inmates were eating. It is known that seven escaped from the Quito State Prison that day and one from the Garcia Moreno National Penitentiary on Saturday, 31 March 1979. The authorities have maintained absolute secrecy concerning this escape of foreign drug traffickers who almost never serve their terms or pay the fines imposed on them. However, punishment is enforced for Ecuadorean drug traffickers, with countless crimes to their credit, who at times are apprehended as drug couriers for the big drug traffickers. Not even the small-time addicts are released until they have served their sentences.

The Escapees

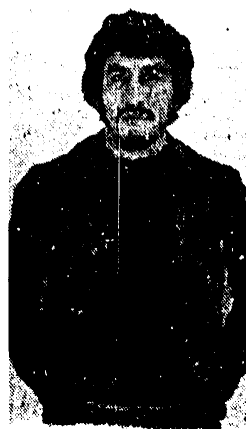
Without knowing what means they used, the following international drug traffickers escaped: Gabriel Fernandez Rodriguez, Colombian; Leon Dario Velasquez, Colombian; Hernan Valencia Puertas, Colombian; Ruben Manuel Barrozo, Argentine; Franco Eli Quinonez Pardo, Panamanian; Jesus Maria Zuleta, Colombian; Jorge Guillermo Rojas, Colombian; and Gilberto Giraldo Lopez, Panamanian, who escaped from the National Penitentiary in disguise, we have been informed.



Jesús María Zuleta
colombiano



Gabriel Hernández Rodríguez
colombiano



Franco Eli Quiñónez Pardo
colombiano



Rubén Manuel Barrozo
argentino



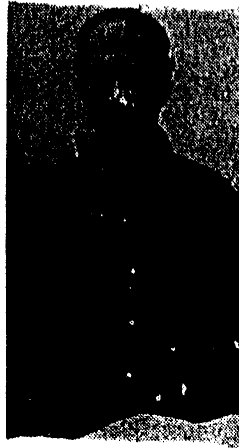
Jorge Guillermo Rojas
colombiano



León Dario Velásquez
colombiano



Gilberto Giraldo López
panameño



Hernán Valencia Puertas
colombiano

Penitentiary Secrecy

Upon learning of this massive escape, we went to the Quito State Prison yesterday where we were received by the warden, Maj Pedro Almeida. He would not let us bring our photographic equipment into the prison; and, appearing to be a combination of nervous, frightened and surprised, he said that he could give us no information whatever. This express ban had been imposed by the national director of prisons, Col Luis A. Pineiros. Major Almeida did say that it was true seven drug traffickers had escaped through a tunnel. He then refused to give any further information because he was not authorized to do so.

We went to see the national director of prisons, Col Luis Pineiros; however, when we reached his office we were told that he had left for the Ministry of Government.

In spite of this, with a telephoto lens, we took a photo of the ancient Quito State Prison, which is located on Ambato Street. It is a dilapidated building which houses more than 600 inmates in a "shameless" jumble. Of this number, 100 work; the rest spend their days "killing time" at games of chance, their vices, indulging themselves freely, while waiting for chow time or bedtime.

There Is No Rehabilitation

In recent days, a reporter from this newspaper visited the national director

of prisons, Col Luis A. Pineiros, who stated: "As a matter of fact, the country does not have a real rehabilitation program for inmates for lack of farms, workshops, machinery and for lack of budgetary allocations. To pursue such an objective," he said, "we would need a sizable investment. However, we do what we can with the modest budget we have." Among other things, he cited the purchase of uniforms for the inmates and a number of improvements in the facilities.

The Escapees

According to information taken from our files of past publications, we know that the fugitives were engaged in illegal and organized trafficking in cocaine paste, using all the available methods to evade the surveillance of antidrug trafficking agents.

On 16 October 1978, Interpol agents, whose action has been nullified, arrested five women and five men of Colombian nationality who are members of a powerful international, illegal cocaine trafficking ring. The authorities confiscated 90 kilograms of cocaine pre-paste material and base from the prisoners which were hidden in seven false-bottomed suitcases. The drug traffickers were traveling individually to Colombia. The women were hired "couriers" who transported the drug from Bolivia to Peru, generally via air. The following persons were arrested by police officers Beatriz Fernandez Gabidia and Hernan Valencia Puertas: Jesus Maria Zuleta Giralso, Gabriel Hernandez Martinez, Leon Dario Velasquez Maya, Luz Marina Velez and Jose Aquiles Gutierrez Iglesias. Arrested later were Colombians Ligia de Jesus Echeverry Rojas, Cefora Ibarra Molina and Maria Cristina Libano Mora. These drug traffickers had much money and cars for a large-scale operation. They had been prisoners for several days before their miraculous escape from Ecuadorean prisons.

Panamanian drug trafficker Giraldo Lopez Gilberto was arrested on 1 September 1978 in the city of Tulcan as he was attempting to transport 12 kilograms of cocaine into Colombia. He admitted that he was a member of an international ring of drug traffickers.

On 25 October 1978, Colombian Jorge Guillermo Rojas was arrested by Interpol agents as he was preparing to transport into Colombia a kilogram of cocaine which he had purchased in Peru.

On 5 June 1978, Colombian Franco Quinonez Pardo was arrested in this city with 9 kilograms of cocaine which he had bought in El Oro Province, according to his own confession.

On 27 September 1978, Colombian Leon Dario Valasquez Maya was arrested for drug trafficking.

Mysterious Escape

Despite the fact that penitentiary authorities rarely receive representatives

of the information media, it was possible to obtain information about the massive escape which was being kept secret. It was learned that several penitentiary guards are being detained for investigation and punishment, if warranted.

The national director of prisons, Col Luis A. Pineiros, categorically refused to receive representatives of the country's newspapers and stated that the work of his organization is "silent but effective."

8143
CSO: 5300

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

COCAINE SMUGGLED INTO PRISON--The driver of one of the trucks of the Pablo Aurelio Ochoa Palacios Coastal Penitentiary is being charged with taking drugs into that prison, according to investigations carried out by Interpol agents whose report was submitted to the Assignment [Sorteos] Office of the Guayaquil Superior Court of Justice. According to statements made by Alfredo Bendicto Suarez Rodriguez, who is now serving a 6-year term imposed by the First Criminal Judge for cocaine trafficking, it was learned that at the end of last month the driver, Ochoa Palacios, entered the prison to bring him 45 packets of "base" at a price of 155 sucres apiece for which he would make a profit of 5 sucres per "bag". He added that Ochoa Palacios is much feared in the Coastal Penitentiary because of his constant threats and abuses. He had to accept the drugs which he offered to some of the "inmate"; however, they told him that the price was too high. Whereupon, during a friendly get together, after having drunk a large amount of liquor, he consumed the drug along with inmates Jose Paucar Navarrete and Luis Alberto Arreaga Velasco. [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 3 Apr 79 p 14] 8143

TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED TO PRISON--Guayaquil (AEP)--Drug traffickers Juan Olarte Penaloza and Fernando Zuniga [as published] Franco were sentenced to 8 years in prison by the second criminal judge, Dr Bolivar Vergara Acosta, in accordance with Article 30 of the Psychotropic Substances Control and Enforcement Law. Zuniga and Olarte were arrested on 11 April 1977 by Interpol agents as they were selling drugs at the corner of Argentina and Esmeraldas Streets. Earlier, Ramon Chiriboga Fajardo had been arrested; and investigation of his case revealed that his drug suppliers were the above-mentioned teaffickers now sentenced to prison. In this same case, Yolanda de Guamboia and other traffickers who were working with Zuniga and Olarte are fugitives from justice. A fine of 10,000 sucres was also imposed upon Fernando Zuniga and Juan Olarte. [Text] [Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Mar 79 p 16] 8143

CSO: 5300

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS SEIZED--National police agents seized more than 24 lbs of marihuana from a taxi going to Los Planes de Renderos. Edgar Walter Salguero Guillen and Jose Salvador Escobar Ramirez, Guatemalan citizens, were arrested and were arraigned yesterday [in] court after testifying that the marihuana had been acquired at the Mexican-Guatemalan border. Another Guatemalan, Ernesto Alas Rebollo, fled when the taxi was stopped by the police. [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 3 May 79 pp 2, 11 PA]

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

MARIHUANA, HEROIN TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED BY FEDERAL POLICE

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 11 Apr 79 Sec B p 5

[Text] The Federal Judicial Police who are in charge of the antidrug campaign in the northeast zone are continuing their efficient work.

At a press conference held at noon yesterday, Alfredo Aaron Juarez Jimenez announced the "blows" which the Federal Judicial Police dealt last Monday, in both Torreon, Coahuila, and Saltillo and Reynosa.

Juarez Jimenez reported that heroin and over a ton of marihuana had been seized last Monday.

The group of Federal Judicial Police detailed to Torreon, Coahuila, together with those assigned to the Saltillo district, made a raid on Monclova, where they captured Jesus Garcia Martinez, Luis Humberto and Federico Garcia Martinez and Francisco Salinas Garcia, from whom they confiscated 309 grams of heroin and a 1977 pickup truck with State of Coahuila license plates EV-3057.

On that same Monday, with backing from officers of the Federal Highway Police, the Federal Judicial Police detailed to Saltillo seized a ton of marihuana. The agents from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic set up an inspection post on the Matehuala highway at "La Concha de Oro;" and stopped a 1978 Dina model truck with Coahuila license plates C-2326, in which a shipment of marihuana was being carried.

Pretending to be carrying a shipment of bananas, two individuals named Pedro Salas Arellano and Alfonso Ochoa Acosta were heading for the border; but the federal police discovered that, under the bananas, they were carrying a large number of bags containing packaged marihuana. The two men claimed that they had obtained the drugs in Puebla, and were driving to the border.

Finally, in a location known as "Los Colorados," in the municipality of Reynosa, the Federal Judicial Police agents found a small shipment of marihuana that had been abandoned. The drugs were hidden among weeds, and weighed approximately 17 kilograms. The Federal Judicial Police are conducting a careful investigation of this case.

2909

CS0: 5330

MEXICO

INSURANCE FIRM ACCUSES POLICE OF USING CONFISCATED CARS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 31 Mar 79 p 8

[Text] Tijuana, Baja California, 30 March--There has been a serious international accusation leveled at the Federal Judicial Police on this border, in an attempt to discredit officials from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic in Tijuana, Baja California.

Officials from three insurance companies in San Diego, California, and their representative, Jesus Mendez Sanchez, adjuster for the State Farmers Insurance Company, sent an anonymous letter to the newspapers in the neighboring city of San Diego, stating that the vehicles which are seized by the Federal Judicial Police in connection with the drug traffic are being used by the latter for personal service. This prompted the newspaper THE SAN DIEGO UNION, to conduct an investigation of the foregoing, and it published an article on 25 March which was reprinted by the prestigious newspaper ABC, which circulates on this border, in its 27 March edition. In the article, the reporter from the aforementioned San Diego paper, took photographs of the yards where the cars confiscated by the Federal Highway Police, the State Traffic Police and the Municipal Police (the members of the Federal Police being in the minority) are kept.

By writing the anonymous letter, Mendez Sanchez is attempting to discredit the effective work being done by the forces under Carlos Aguilar Garza, national coordinator of the campaign against drug trafficking; because it was proven by a qualified handwriting expert that he had written that anonymous letter in collaboration with other agents from the insurance companies. The purpose of the action was to accelerate the activities of the underworld on this border and elsewhere, as in the case of the drug traffic; because they were using this border which happens to be linked with the state having the greatest economic power in the United States, as a connecting point.

When Jesus Mendez was arrested, he was suspected of being an individual who cooperated with the Mexican authorities to return the cars to the United States.

In his statements to the local press, that individual said that he was the only one responsible. He was subsequently released, and returned to the

United States, so that he could claim that he had been captured in order to make the foregoing confession.

The result of this incident has been that there is a 24-hour battle on this border against the drug traffic. And, strangely enough, drugs are being brought to Mexico from the United States; because recently arrests have been made of American, Mexican-American and emigrant "mules" who cross the border from San Isidro to Tijuana, in order to distribute drugs among Mexican youth. However, forces subordinate to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, complying with that office's orders calling for adherence to the principles of loyalty to the chief executive of the nation, are performing their duties, battling against drug trafficking 24 hours a day.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

SEVENTY-NINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN THREE DAYS

Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 30 Mar 79 p 10

[Text] Mexico City, 29 March--Within a period of 72 hours, the Federal Judicial Police arrested 79 individuals involved in drug trafficking in various sections of the country, seizing from them 850 kilograms of marihuana, 8 kilograms of marihuana seed and 375 grams of heroin.

The first to be arrested were Santiago Vega Rodriguez, Joaquin Lopez Vazquez, Dupruel Romero Barcenas, Guadalupe Gonzalez Galvan, Viviana Moreno de Gonzalez, Luis Felipe de la Torre Balli, Simon Puente Cruz, Estanislao Puente Perez, Daniel Puente Cruz and Lucio Puente Perez.

These arrests were made in San Luis-Rio Colorado, Sonora; San Pedro Acatzingo, Mexico; the Ciudad Mante Highway, Tampico; and the El Rosario farm, in the municipality of Mezapil, Zacatecas.

Subsequently, the Federal Judicial Police captured Marcelino Hernandez Mendez, Francisco Santiago Hernandez, Herminio Rodriguez Cruz, Dolores Hernandez Muniz, Abel Rivera Chavez, Domingo Tapia Saavedra, Cirilo Vargas Reules, Virgilio Perez Leonides and Jose Vazquez Munoz.

According to an official communique from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the aforementioned individuals were arrested on the Torreon Highway, in Ciudad Juarez; on the highway from Reynosa to Monterrey; and on the Monterrey-Ciudad Mier Highway.

Miguel Angel Camarena Rincon, Antonio Alvarez Gomez, Telesforo Cazares Zazueza, Rafael Meza Nevares, Candida Espinosa de Padilla, Lorenzo Padilla Salazar, Roberto Elizondo Hernandez, Jesus Mariano Ramos Rendon, Francisco Soto Ramirez and Raul Malacara Juarez were arrested in Iguala, Guerrero; Guadalajara, Jalisco; Culiacan and the Los Metates farm, Sinaloa; Tampico and Reynosa, Tamaulipas; and Saltillo, Coahuila.

Also confiscated from them were 45 grams of cocaine, two Ford cars with Baja California and Oaxaca license plates, a pickup truck with Tamaulipas plates and firearms.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS RECEIVE JAIL SENTENCES, FINES

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 7 Apr 79 Sec B p 4

[Text] According to a report from the second district court, yesterday, three individuals who were tried early last year for committing a crime against health received prison sentences in proceedings No 44-978.

On the basis of the evidence contained in the records, Luis Garcia Romero sentenced Damaso Rueda Moncada to a 6-year jail term and imposed a fine of 5,071.50 pesos on him for having committed a crime against health in the degree of marihuana possession; while his accomplices, Roberto Hernandez Solis and Israel Solis Sanchez were found guilty of a crime against health in the degree of attempted marihuana trafficking, and received jail sentences of 3 years and 6 months, and fines of 3,381.00 pesos.

According to the information in the possession of the second district court, on 17 February 1978, forces from the Federal Judicial Police surprised four individuals who were loading something at "El Pocito" Gap, about 1 kilometer from Reynosa, on the highway leading to Monterrey. Upon realizing that they had been discovered, they fled, abandoning the "mysterious shipment."

The Federal Judicial Police confiscated four bags containing packaged marihuana, and chased the men who were carrying it until they caught up with them. The latter gave their names as Roberto Hernandez, Israel Solis, Eliud Hernandez Solis and Juan Manuel Perez Camarillo.

The four individuals admitted that they had stolen the bags of marihuana from the "La Argentina" farm, where they had left another four bags containing the same drug.

The federal police went to the aforementioned farm, and found 500 kilograms of marihuana in a chain pump well. There, they arrested Damaso Rueda Moncada, who claimed to be the owner of the farm. At the time, Rueda Moncada stated that some individuals from Michoacan had left him a ton of marihuana, which he had at first stored in a warehouse. But, since the men did not return, he hid the shipment in a well, where most of it was destroyed as a result of the effects of the water.

2909

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

CODEINE SHIPMENT SEIZED--An individual named Nicolas Almanza Pina was captured by federal agents from the port of Tampico with a shipment of codeine phosphate. The man in question was riding in bus No 710 of the "Estrella Blanca" [White Star] line, bound for the Tamaulipas border. Almanza Pina was arrested at a Federal Judicial Police inspection post in the settlement of Tula, Tamaulipas; and upon searching his baggage, the forces from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic discovered that he had 306 bottles in his possession containing a liquid which was apparently codeine phosphate. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 7 Apr 79 Sec C p 5] 2909

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS CAUGHT--The Federal Judicial Police captured three persons who were acting as liaison in the town of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, for a group of individuals shipping marihuana from the interior of the country to this border town. After the questioning of an individual named Irineo Ramirez, from whom 332 kilograms of cannabis indica were seized, the federal police captured Jose Hernandez Romero, Gabrile Carrizales Saucedo and Teodoro Davila Arevalo in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. These three men were to receive the shipment of marihuana which was transported by Irineo Ramirez and other persons who were captured along with him. Hernandez Romero and his two co-defendants said that they were actually waiting for the marihuana shipment; and that Irineo Ramirez had sent them another shipment previously, which they sold to traffickers from the United States. At the time of their arrest, Hernandez Romero, Carrizales Saucedo and Davila Arevalo had in their possession two 12 caliber shotguns and 25 unused bullets of the same caliber. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 7 Apr 79 Sec B p 4] 2909

'OPERATION CONDOR' RESULTS--The campaign against drug trafficking being waged by the Federal Judicial Police with the backing of the Mexican National Army has brought good results, as proven by the fact that 90 percent of the planting, cultivation and sale of drugs has been combatted. The seizures made by these police forces in "Operation Condor" between 1 and 31 March of this year were as follows: A total of 62 persons were captured; 206,140 kilograms of marihuana were confiscated, as were 15,550 kilograms of seed of the same drug, another 1,000 kilograms of poppy seed, 3,019 kilograms of opium gum

and 46 kilograms of cocaine. Also confiscated were six long-barreled, high-powered weapons, six short-barreled weapons of different calibers and 1,378 unused bullets; and a clandestine laboratory was destroyed. The plantations destroyed manually consisted of 586 plantations covering an area of 397,185 square meters. Likewise destroyed during the month of March 1979 were a total of 43 marihuana plantations over an area of 20,255 square meters; and, insofar as mixed plantations, that is, those containing marihuana and poppies, are concerned, 14 such plantations were destroyed over an area of 12,400 square meters. The plantations destroyed by fumigation consisted of: 1,403 poppy plantations over an area of 328,640 square meters; and only three marihuana plantations, covering an area of 2,800 square meters. [Text] [Culiacan EL SOL DE SINALOA in Spanish 5 Apr 79 p 9] 2909

CSO: 5330

PANAMA

BRIEFS

COCAINE HAUL--A twin-engine Beechcraft airplane of U.S. registry made an emergency landing on 26 April at a banana plantation in the area of Puerto Armuelles. The plane was found to be carrying 90 kg of pure cocaine worth \$108 million. Its four occupants, Allyn Milton Karr, Verne Richard Voll, Jorge Luis Valdes and Gerome Delemar Scarsborough, all of U.S. nationality, were arrested for drug trafficking. The plane was en route to Managua from Cali, Colombia, according to the traffickers. Karr said they had arranged to deliver the drug to one Carlos Rodriguez of Miami. [Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 6 May 79 pp 1A, 8-A PA]

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

COCAINE CONFISCATION--Lima, 5 May (AFP)--It was reported here that 111 kilos of cocaine valued at over \$20 million were confiscated today at Jorge Chavez International Airport. The cocaine shipment is possibly the largest ever confiscated in Peru and was about to be sent to Bogota ingeniously packed in two large crates addressed to: Colombian Army Maj Leonardo Manascal Soluaga, 1085 Caracas Avenue, Bogota. The police believe the address is false. So far, the police have not been able to identify the senders but have made two arrests. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1806 GMT 5 May 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

URUGUAY

PILL TRAFFICKING LEADS TO EXPULSION FOR ARGENTINE DOCTOR

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 28 Mar 79 p 9

[Text] An Argentine doctor who was arrested last month and tried for "Provision of Narcotics" (Article 35 of Law 14.294) was expelled from the country yesterday.

The undesirable is Mario Guillermo Vindver, Argentine, married, 40 years of age, domiciled in Buenos Aires at Calle Sarmiento 2897. This individual had joined with Bernardo Gerstenbluth Platzman, proprietor of the "Israelita" pharmacy located at Gral. Flores 2521, to sell "weight reducers" which the doctor prescribed and the pharmacist prepared in a secret laboratory set up in a back room of the pharmacy which is in the Goes neighborhood. Obviously they divided between them the proceeds from the sale of the "wonder" pills. But the case came to light when a young woman had to be hospitalized for acute psychoneurotic depression. Inquiry into the motives of the case revealed that she was taking a weight-reduction treatment but that the pills she was taking were unknown to the physicians and the the Ministry of Public Health.

The doctor and the pharmacist were arrested. The pharmacist was indicted, but the doctor managed to save his situation in the initial proceeding. Later, however, the district attorney's criminal division found against the doctor, and the trial judge sitting on the third shift ordered him to stand trial and remanded him to jail.

With his expulsion from the country, the disuasion of another Argentine doctor, Jacobo Nenezian Vartevanian, has resurfaced. The latter is in jail for smuggling with proven recidivity, although the classification of his offense could be changed to "Trafficking and Provision of Narcotics," in that, according to reports, the pharmaceuticals which he himself was bringing in from the Argentine Republic contained narcotic substances.

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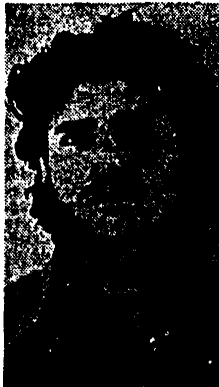
URUGUAY

NARCOTICS SQUAD ARRESTS FOUR FOR FALSIFYING PRESCRIPTIONS

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 27 Mar 79 p 9

[Text] Four persons, two men and two women, with previous arrests for crimes over which the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Squad exercises law-enforcement action, were again arrested and subsequently remanded to jail by the trial judge on duty.

They are Ricardo Bertier Arocena, Oriental, single, aged 21; Raul Jorge Scaglione, Oriental, single, 23; Silvia Marisa Ibarroja, Oriental, married, 22; and Ana Maria Cirino Pignalosa, Oriental, single, 22.



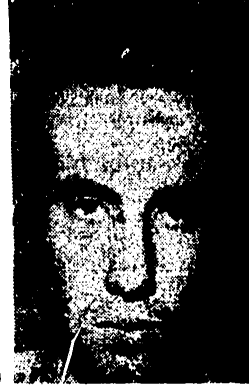
Ricardo Bertier Arocena



Silvia Marisa
Ibarroja Pedraza



Ana Maria Cirino
Pignalosa



Raúl Jorge Scaglione

The Maneuver

The new offense committed by these young people, who certainly know the meaning of indictments, was planned in an attempt to obtain psychoactive drugs which at present, thanks to the strict control being exercised, are very hard to come by.

Having worked out the scheme, Ana Maria Cirino was given the task of getting the "job" under way. With tremendous aplomb and decisiveness, she entered the premises of a mutual benefit society, took a robe from a consulting room, put it on, then walked in a perfectly normal manner through the corridors of the establishment until she found a consulting room open with no one inside, entered it and stole a pad of 200 prescription blanks.

Second Act

With this in her possession she left the establishment and returned to her friends to continue with execution of the crime. At this point Marisa Ibarroja took over and proceeded to falsify prescriptions to be used in obtaining the drugs.

Certain of having pulled off the "job" to perfection, the foursome proceeded to the pharmacy of the above-mentioned medical establishment to "cash in" the prescriptions.

They did not count, however, on the wisdom born of experience of the pharmacy's employees, who found abnormalities in the prescriptions, some of which required details. Discussing it among themselves, the employees decided to report the matter to their superiors, who in turn quickly alerted the authorities at Narcotics Headquarters as to what had occurred.

They are Arrested

Officers of the Narcotics Squad started work on identifying the authors of the crime and succeeded quickly in doing so based on descriptions of the four who had presented the falsified prescriptions.

Having identified the falsifiers, the officers took them in custody.

The police's "old acquaintances" were subsequently brought before the trial magistrate with more than convincing evidence of the crime committed.

Remanded

The judge, taking into account the previous records of the authors of the crime, and with the report before him on what had occurred on this occasion, remanded the four to jail after charging them with the following crimes: Ricardo Bertier Arocena and Raul Jorge Scaglione were indicted for "conspiring to break the law"; Ana Maria Cirino Pignalosa, for "theft and conspiring to break the law"; and Silvia Marisa Ibarrola Pedrera, for "conspiring to break the law" and "falsification of private documents."

And so ended an attempt which, had it been successful, would have meant that four individuals addicted to the use of psychoactive drugs would have gained possession of a certain quantity of drugs, for their own consumption, to be sure, but which could have started a chain of events harmful to other persons.

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CSO: 5300

EGYPT

OPIUM SEIZED BY SECURITY DEPARTMENT, TURKISH CITIZEN ARRESTED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 10 Apr 79 p 2

[Text] Police seized a huge quantity of opium, valued at L.E. 500,000 and arrested a 51-year-old Turkish drug pusher who had brought the opium into Egypt, the Cairo General Security Department announced.

Tips received by the department said that a huge quantity of opium had been smuggled into the country to be distributed among several drug pushers. "The consignment was to be put up for sale on the occasion of Sham el Nessim," one of the reports said.

The Turkish dealer Kassem Gulshan, was found staying at the Des Roses Hotel, in Talaat Harb St. downtown Cairo where he was stashing the opium.

Investigations revealed that Mr. Gulshan managed to smuggle the opium into the country in his private car which he received at the port of Suez.

Disguise

Two narcotic squad officers, disguised as drug pushers, contacted the dealer at the hotel through a mediator. They made it understand that they wanted to buy the full quantity.

"At first, Mr. Gulshan insisted on receiving the price in US dollars, but we persuaded him to accept payment in Egyptian currency and fixed another appointment," one of the officers said.

As predicted, said the officer a car arrived at the assigned meeting place in Medinet Nasr. An Egyptian drug pusher handed the disguised officers three bulky packets of opium. Immediately, the officers showed their identity cards and arrested him.

Red-Handed

At almost the same time, another squad of officers stormed the dealer's room in the hotel. "He was arrested red-handed with another six packets of opium," the Chief of the narcotic squad said.

On interrogation, Mr. Gulshan confessed that he arrived in Cairo in mid March after he had shipped the car, loaded with opium, to Suez.

His Egyptian partner, Taha el Said Mustafa, 28, got to know him in Kuwait. "I promised to visit him in Egypt and make some business there", Mr. Gulshan told police.

The Turkish Embassy in Cairo was notified and a representative of the Turkish diplomatic mission was there for the interrogation. Mr. Gulshan will join a brother of his in jail who had been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for a similar, "crime," police said.--GSS

CSO: 5300

MOROCCO

REPORT ON MOROCCAN DRUG LEGISLATION PUBLISHED

Rabat L'OPINION in French 22 Mar 79 p 5

[Article by Laabdi Samir: "Chronological Development of Moroccan Legislation on Narcotic Substances Since the Protectorate"]

[Text] Since the days of the protectorate, Moroccan legislation governing the marketing, possession and use of toxic substances has included a multitude of legislative texts which we will examine in chronological order. Section III of Article 43 of the decree dated 12 November 1932, pertaining to the cultivation of Indian hemp, specifies in its single chapter that such cultivation is in principle prohibited throughout the French zone of the kingdom, although by way of an exception, the decree in question gives the Tobacco Administration authority over the cultivation of this harmful plant for its own needs, through the granting for this purpose of special permits to the farmers it sees fit to designate.

However we might note that the protectorate could not ignore this asset, to the detriment of national and international public health, and it granted an exclusive concession to the international company given joint administration of tobacco in Morocco, entailing a monopoly on the purchase, production and sale of tobacco and kif. Article 1 of the 1932 decree authorized exploitation by this company until the expiration of the concession.

Section 7 of the 12 November 1932 decree provided, in its Article 90, that penalties for violations of these provisions would be fines ranging from 1,000 to 50,000 dirhams.

Line 9 of Article 90 provides that for any violation in connection with the cultivation of kif, the fines applicable would be double those specified for tobacco.

Explicitly, all the provisions contrary to that decree were abrogated, in particular those of the decrees dated 4 May 1915, 7 October 1919, 3 November 1919, and 25 July 1929.

Another decree dated 26 January 1949 abrogated that of 7 February 1948, and amended the 12 November 1932 decree. Its first article provided that the

schedule for fines for which Article 90 of the 1932 decree provided would be multiplied by 40.

In fact, then, this meant that the penalty provided in Article 90 of the 1932 decree for Indian hemp would be multiplied by 80, pursuant to the above-mentioned line 9 of the article.

The first article of the 24 April 1954 decree prohibiting kif hemp (BO [Bulletin Officiel] 1954-640) defines that term or Indian hemp as the flower or fruit-bearing extremities of the female plant of the cannabis saliva (Urticaceae, Cannabinaceae) of the variety called Indian.

This decree prohibits the harvesting, production, processing, extraction, separation, possession, offer for sale, distribution, brokerage, purchase, sale, transportation, import, export or consumption in any form whatsoever of kif hemp, and in a general fashion, all farm, industrial or commercial operations pertaining to that plant.

Notwithstanding these provisions, the minister of public health or the head of the narcotics bureau could, in accordance with Article 3 of that same decree, authorize the cultivation and use of kif hemp for scientific purposes in research and educational establishments.

At the end of Article 6 of this decree, all provisions concerning kif included in the 12 November 1932 decree pertaining to the Tobacco Administration in Morocco were abrogated, thus leaving tobacco the sole substance covered by these provisions.

As a measure toward effective implementation of the 1954 decree mentioned above, the Ministry of Finance undertook to pay bonuses to agents entrusted with the detection of fraud, and, in some cases, informers investigating, reporting or establishing violations of the decree. These bonuses were allocated in accordance with Article 1 of Decree 2-56-038 dated 30 June 1956.

After independence was won, a joint decree by the vice-president of the council, minister of finance and minister of justice dated 30 December 1959 extended the legislation pertaining to the Tobacco Administration in effect in the southern zone (BO 1960-552) to the former Spanish protectorate zone and to the province of Tangier.

A decree dated 30 June 1962 provided for the disposition of transport vehicles and items contributing to the concealment of fraud.

Where vehicles or transport means other than animals were involved, once confiscated they would be turned over to the secretariat-record office of the competent court or put on display.

When animals were involved, they would be sold legally by the property office.

As to narcotic substances, they were to be turned over against a receipt to the Tobacco Administration, which would see to their storage and destruction as soon as the latter operation became possible.

A monthly report of the amounts destroyed at each of the warehouses of the Tobacco Administration was to be sent to the narcotics office of the Ministry of Public Health.

The procedure in case of the arrest of those caught red-handed would be pursued through the legal provisions set forth in the penal procedures code.

In connection with evidence of violations where kif was concerned, the above provisions were not to prevent the possible establishment of proof by every legal means, even when no seizure of goods was possible.

The habitual consumption of usually increasing amounts of kif, ether, morphine, cocaine, opium and other narcotic substances has been steadily growing in America and Europe as well as Morocco.

The consumption of these poisonous substances by certain individuals of various social classes cannot fail to lead inevitably to a morbid perversion in consumers, caused by a psychic degeneration, falsely reflected in the attraction of the mysterious and an unhealthy pursuit of snob values and new sensations.

It was for the purpose of controlling this phenomenon that the Moroccan legislators approved a decree incorporating Law 1-73-282 pertaining to the control of drug addiction and prosecution of addicts on 21 May 1974.

This text, through the provisions we will describe, amended the 2 December 1922 decree regulating the import, trade, possession and use of toxic substances, as well as the 24 April 1954 decree (discussed above) prohibiting kif hemp, and other texts amended or supplemented by the decrees in question.

The provisions of this decree (21 May 1974) made any person, accomplice, or author of an attempt to persuade or persuasion of another to use narcotic substances or plants by any means whatsoever, advertising or otherwise, liable to a prison sentence of one to five years and a fine of 500 to 50,000 dirhams.

Moreover, simple voluntary use of kif or other narcotic substances without the authorization of a medical doctor carried a penalty of two months to one year in prison and a fine of 500 to 5,000 dirhams, or one of these penalties alone.

Article 3 of Dahir 1-73-282 provides for a penalty of 2 to 10 years in prison and a fine of 5,000 to 5,000,000 dirhams for any individual facilitating the use of these illicit goods, either by seeking premises for the purpose or by any other means.

The same is true for anyone providing, or attempting to arrange to provide, or any medical doctor providing a false prescription for the use of drugs.

Moreover, the minimum penalty was increased to five years for facilitating use by a minor 21 years of age or under, or if the violation was committed by a medical doctor or a merchant knowingly providing the substance against a false prescription.

The penalty is the more serious when the influx, production, processing, transportation, export or illegal possession of narcotic plants is involved, with those violating the law subject to 5 to 10 years in prison and a fine of 5,000 to 500,000 dirhams.

The Moroccan courts have broad jurisdiction in the field of toxic substances.

The courts are in fact authorized to try violations in this field committed in Morocco, or wherein one of the factors involved occurred abroad, or even if the acts of complicity or actual concealment were committed outside Moroccan territory by foreigners.

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MOROCCO

CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST DRUG PROBLEM EMPHASIZED

Rabat L'OPINION in French 23 Mar 79 p 6:

[Article by Larbi Douliazane: "The Menace Which Knows No Frontier"]

[Excerpt] Indeed, drugs are not solely an attribute of the moneyed classes. It spares no social strata, either in Western Europe, North and South America or Eastern Europe (indeed, the Soviet Union and its satellites also have their problems with youthful drug consumers). Not to speak of Asia (the priority producer and consumer) and Africa.

And Morocco. Here the drug has taken a terrible toll in all strata in the past dozen years.

A large part of our youth is involved with drugs, to a more vicious extent with every passing day.

The use of kif and its derivatives is a cause for concern. All the towns and localities in the kingdom are affected.

What should concern each of us and above all the public authorities is the wave of drug addiction in student circles. No faculty, no secondary school, no college is spared. Users are found even in some primary schools. The situation is very serious.

It is a whole generation which is threatened and, it goes without saying, the future of the country.

Can our children, being corrupted by this terrible vice, measure up to our hopes by becoming the men of tomorrow, healthy in body and mind?

A close look should be given to the causes of certain school failures inexplicably experienced by otherwise excellent students. Drugs have something to do with this, without a doubt.

It is like a plot against our youth. Despite the arrest and sentencing of drug traffickers, the volume of drugs on the market has not ceased to describe a rising curve.

It is the duty of all of us together to nip in the bud this scourge which, if it is not true yet, will in the long run have unspeakable consequences for our people.

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MOROCCO

DRUG PROBLEM IN KENITRA INCREASES

Rabat L'OPINION in French 23 Mar 79 p 5

[Article by Rochdi Abdessalam: "Key City in the Heart of the Country"]

[Text] Kenitra, the city at the crossroads between the southern and northern parts of the country, has seen its population multiply greatly, fed above all by the scourge of the rural exodus, being the main focus of this migration following that directed toward Casablanca. The first social fallout from this uncontrolled exodus is reflected in the ever-more-alarming use of drugs, above all among young people.

Called upon to take over from their elders and to place their dynamism in the service of the nation and the country, the young people are mindlessly abandoning healthy activities, seeking escape and giving themselves over, body and soul, to drugs. From the ages of 15 to 38, they engage in various forms of drug consumption.

Thus the most dynamic and energetic phase of life goes unutilized.

Drugs coming from the northern part of the country--Tetouan, El Hoceima, Nador, Ouezzane, and, recently, Fes, are on sale in a number of sectors (Khabbazat, Douar Rjafellah, Fouarrat, Diour Saniak, the Ryad cinema sector, Mohammed V Avenue and the penitentiary quarter). This is a scourge which leads to anti-social acts within the field of crime: theft (25 percent of those in the nation, following the 30 percent for Casablanca, in 1977), assault and injury, traffic accidents, and rape, not to mention mental illness.

The gain in the past few years by "chiite," although more costly, is due to its more pleasant euphoric effects and its presentation in condensed form, greatly facilitating its marketing, as opposed to kif which has the inconvenient aspect of representing a sizable volume with limited weight. Indian hemp or kif, which is no longer consumed in the "sebci," is mixed and rolled with tobacco from American cigarettes, in which the trend is increasingly toward dwindling.

In the course of 1977, only 141 cases were dealt with, and 6,675.95 kilograms of kif and 315.85 kilograms of "chiira" were confiscated.

In 1978, the SRPJ departments in Kenitra arrested 121 persons varying in age from 25 to 60. These persons, who were for the most part retailers, purchased the kif in the stalk and tobacco in leaf form from suppliers generally coming from the regions of the North, in particular Ketama and Al Hoceima.

Also, the SRPJ in Kenitra was able to confiscate 604 kilograms of kif and 230 kilograms of tobacco. It also interrogated 29 individuals engaged in the clandestine sale of "chiira."

The prices on the retail level are exorbitant. A tiny slab of 10 grams is worth 15 to 20 dirhams.

Kenitra, the capital of Gharb, is the scene of intensive drug trafficking activity and the distribution center of average importance, because of its geographic situation in the center of the country.

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MOROCCO

USE OF CANNABIS CAUSES DANGERS

Rabat L'OPINION in French 23 Mar 79 p 5

[Article by Dr Hamid Saigh: "Cannabis, More Dangerous Than Is Realized!"]

[Text] Before discussing the dangers of Indian hemp, it should be recalled that Arab doctors such as Ibn-al-Baytar made use of it as a medicine.

In certain regions of India, it is still used as a remedy. It is believed to have various pharmacological qualities, to wit as an antibiotic, a diuretic, an anti-spasmodic (against pain), an anthelmintic and an auxilytic agent. But despite the various studies devoted to this subject, the real therapeutic effect and the exact risks of this drug have not been entirely clarified.

However a number of works have made it possible to take up this problem and to reveal the risks which the consumer of kif may run.

First of all, as might be presumed, respiratory effects may be seen.

The smoke of cannabis provokes various respiratory difficulties.

Some hashish smokers suffer frequent bronchial ailments with a phlegm-producing cough leading to respiratory problems and even asthma crises, with the classic whistling breathing with which asthma sufferers are familiar.

What is particularly evident in this respiratory problem caused by hemp is that it is in no way relieved by antibiotics. Only abstention, an end to consumption of the drug, will cause it to disappear.

In other cases, the kif consumer suffers from "persistent or chronic and recurrent" maladies such as persistent nasal drip or inflammation of the pharynx.

The uvula becomes edematous, and according to some studies, an examination of the uvula can be used to detect clandestine consumers of the drug.

In some cases effects on the sinus cavities can be noted, with all the painful inconveniences this may entail.

In addition to respiratory difficulties, cannabis can also lead to effects on the skin. Many consumers complain of skin inflammation with excessive seborrhea, sweating or acne. In these cases only interrupting the poisoning will serve to improve the condition of the sufferer.

Along with this, taking the drug can cause the development of diarrhea, violent abdominal pain and vomiting, within the following 24 to 48 hours. These symptoms which have been seen in man have been confirmed by means of experiments with laboratory animals.

The consumer loses weight. In some cases, a loss of as much as nine kilograms in eight months has been noted.

It would also seem that this drug causes liver difficulties. A certain number of other effects have been noted by different authors, such as conjunctivitis, vascular disease, and a loss of muscular strength. From the psychopathological point of view in particular, the effects of kif are particularly formidable.

Certain studies have revealed that chronic smokers of kif may develop cerebral atrophy.

Sufferers often complain of losses of recent memory, and in many cases the development of mental ailments justifying suspicion of cerebral problems develop.

We will conclude by stressing the fact that kif does not cause physical dependence, but rather dependence of a psychological nature.

Interruption of the habit can never be reflected in physical withdrawal symptoms, but the use of kif can lead to toxicomania.

Thus kif makes of the consumer "an addict capable of anything, pushing him into anti-social actions in order to satiate his passion."

For even after the elimination of the drug, psychological dependence persists and the consumer retains a "yearning for the drug" for the rest of his life.

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MOROCCO

TRIAL ON MAJOR DRUG TRAFFIC CASE REPORTED

Rabat L'OPINION in French 24 Mar 79 p 6

[Article by Lahcen Kardous: "The Biggest Trial Involving Illicit Drug Traffic in Morocco"]

[Text] The Special Court of Justice, with Mr Zeghari presiding, has been hearing a drug traffic case since last January in which 78 persons are involved. Because state officials were implicated in the case, it was transferred to the Special Court of Justice.

The investigation revealed that the drug traffickers had established a detailed organization as of 1976 to guarantee the successful channeling of "chiira" to export points (Cala Iris Beach). In this operation they had the complicity of a certain number of policemen and agents of the local administration.

Substantial means were also utilized in this operation, including transport vehicles, loading and unloading facilities, places of concealment and manpower.

The "chiira" was exported on vessels which came into the Cala Iris Beach. The drug traffickers used walkie-talkies and "zodiacs," among other equipment.

The officials charged with corruption include:

Charouf Abdellah, commander of the Royal Gendarmerie, in Fes;

Abbes Bitor, lieutenant in the Royal Gendarmerie, in Al Hoceira;

Ali Moukila, head of the Royal Gendarmerie brigade in Targuist;

Ali Soudni, head of the Royal Gendarmerie brigade in Torres;

Abdelhamid Tizaoui, head of the Royal Gendarmerie brigade in Ketama;

Abdesslam Bekkali, chieftain and head of the Beni Boufrah Circle; and
Amine El Ouazzani, deputy commander of the Royal Gendarmerie in Fes.

The persons charged with exporting "chiira" include, among others, Mohamed Ben Hammadi Adbib, Abdelkhalek Adbib, Tchaytchay Ould El Moujahid, Driss Dazila, Batita Abdelkader, known as "Banda," Dihaj Mohamed, Mohamed Chef, and Mohamed Ould Hammou.

Charged with them were also persons who helped in the marketing of the drug, exchanging currency, driving vehicles, etc.

The "chiira" was sold to foreigners at a price of 6,000 dirhans per ton. The policemen charged with complicity received 50,000 dirhans of this total, according to the record of evidence.

On 7 April 1977, the vessel Colombos, transporting chiira to other countries, had an accident and went aground off Cala Iris, where it was preparing to depart with a cargo of 300 tons of chiira.

Those charged, Brown Lindsay, Bacher Thimoty and Fessen Willy, were members of the crew of the Colombos. The record of evidence indicates that they met with Boutkoura Abdesslem (seller), Abdelkhalek Adbib, Belcaid Ahmed, Dihaj Mohamed and Ali Soudni.

Those in charge of investigating the circumstances of the accident proceeded in such a way as to conceal it.

Several days after leaving Morocco, the three foreigners boarded another vessel to load the "chiira" in question. They were arrested on 2 May by the Spanish authorities, in Spanish territorial waters.

On 10 July 1977, an airplane crashed in the Ketama Circle. Two Spaniards, Gabriel Ortega Acania and Juan Rodriguez Relano, were attempting to transport a quantity of "chiira." They were able to leave the country without difficulty thanks to help provided them by their accomplices.

The police drafted a report giving poor weather conditions and engine damage as the causes of the accident.

In addition, 680 kilograms of good-quality "chiira" were taken from the warehouse of the Tobacco Administration in Al Hoceima, being replaced by a similar quantity of poorer quality. This operation was carried out through the cooperation of Smina Mohamed, head of the narcotics control department, and the police.

The "chiira" in question was sold to Abdelkhalek Adbib for 120,000 dirhans. Smina is reported to have received 15,000 dirhans from Bitor in payment for his assistance.

It should be noted that after the accident suffered by the Colombos on 7 April 1977, three tons of "chiira" were hidden near the beach. This "merchandise" belonged to Boutkoura Abdesslam. In fact it was not shipped out until the night of 30 April 1977. Mr Hsissen, deputy royal prosecutor in Al Hoceima, who was in this locality on vacation with his family, noted the presence of two vessels, as well as the operation when the chiira was loaded.

The next day Ahmed Belcaid, who manages a tourist complex at Cala Iris Beach, told Mr Hsissen the truth about the matter. He in turn informed the pertinent authorities of what he had seen and learned from Belcaid.

An investigation was then begun on the provincial level.

But after the Spanish authorities had boarded the vessel transporting the drug, and because Mr Hsissen had provided supplementary information, the central authorities appointed a commission made up of Royal Gendarmerie officers to pursue an overall investigation of the affair.

That investigation led to the charging of 78 persons involved in the drug trafficking, including 15 foreigners.

A substantial quantity of chiira as well as other items were confiscated and made available to the court:

More than 2,000 kilograms of chiira ready for export;

Zodiac inflatable vessels used by the drug traffickers for transport from the beach to the vessels anchored offshore;

Walkie-talkie radio receiver-transmitters;

Automobiles and trucks used to transport the "merchandise";

The airplane which crashed on 10 July 1977;

The remains of the vessel Colombos, which had however been plundered;

Gold watches;

Jewels of great value (confiscated from the wives of the policemen charged);

A color television set which must have cost at least 8,000 dirhans; and

In cash, 880,000 dirhans.

Those arrested were charged with acts of corruption, trafficking in drugs and abuse of authority.

In the course of being interrogated by the court, the majority of those charged retracted their statements.

Soudni, head of the Royal Gendarmerie brigade in Torres, admitted participation in four operations, of which the first three were completed without the knowledge of his superiors, he said.

Azzouzi Touhami and Robio, who were recruited to see to the loading and unloading of the goods, also admitted participation in certain operations. Others among the defendants admitted engaging in the cultivation and sale of kif, claiming that their deliveries were limited solely to Moroccan citizens.

In addition, the court interrogated a certain number of witnesses in the case, including policemen, the deputy royal prosecutor in Al Hoceima, the former chieftain of Targuist and an operating agent of the PTT [Postal, Telephone and Telegraph Services].

After completing the interrogation of the defendants, the court heard the indictment read by Mr Ahmed Ouazani, royal prosecutor general in the Special Court of Justice.

The indictment divided the defendants into several groups.

- 1) The 17 Moroccan drug traffickers, among whom he mentioned Abdelkhalek and Hamadi Adbid, Hammoudani Abdellah, Maazouz Driss, Dihaj Mohamed, etc.
- 2) The 14 foreign drug traffickers of various nationalities, including Swedes, Americans, Englishmen and Spaniards.
- 3) The eight agents of the Gendarmerie.
- 4) The police agents.
- 5) The agents of the local administration.
- 6) The employees of the water and forests department.
- 7) An employee of the drug control department.
- 8) Private individuals, including among others Abdelkhalek and Hammadi Adbib, Laghrifi, and Talla Abdellah.

The royal prosecutor general then presented the evidence against the defendants to the court, and in this connection referred to the statements by the witnesses which, moreover, corroborated the reports of evidence drafted by the investigators.

After listing and displaying the items in evidence (written documents, watches, boats, etc) the royal prosecutor general dealt with the penalties applicable to the defendants in his indictment. He then left the 12 defendants in the hands of the court, requesting that 3 of the foreigners be judged separately, while noting that an extradition petition had been sent to the authorities in the countries in which they are at the present time.

With regard to the 18 defendants still at large, the prosecutor demanded a penalty of 10 years' imprisonment with a fine.

In conclusion, he asked that Article 2 of the decree dated 21 May 1974 be invoked for those charged with drug trafficking, the application of Articles 34 and 35 of the code of the special courts for those charged with corruption, and the application of Articles 128 and 129 for those charged with participating in and contributing to these acts.

The royal prosecutor general also demanded the confiscation of the goods seized as state property.

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MOROCCO

DOSSIER ON INDIAN HEMP CAUSES PROBLEM IN MOROCCO

Rabat L'OPINION in French 23, 24 Mar 79

[Article by Naim Kamal: "How and Why We Have Failed to Resolve the Problem"]

[23 Mar 79, pp 4-7]

[Excerpts] The only motivation for this work was the desire to contribute to the studies made of one of the greatest socioeconomic problems of our century, as well as to participate constructively in the popularization of the facts on this problem.

Our plan calls for action on the part of a number of the government departments involved. Unfortunately, although the request (in writing) made in this connection was not rejected, we were not able, in view of the slowness of proceedings, to obtain satisfaction.

This did not deter us!

Despite the difficulties, the readers now have a report in hand. We have no doubt that they will be our best aid and support. It is to them that the popularization of the poster produced thanks to the talent of our cartoonist, Laarbi Sabanne, will fall. It is the best summary of our report.

However, our purpose is not simply to moralize or to blame anyone. Observing the rules imposed by objectivity insofar as possible, we have tried to substantiate the nature of drug abuse so that those who have never tried drugs will abstain, and so that those others who are already involved with drugs can at least understand what they are doing.

Finally, L'OPINION sincerely thanks all those many individuals who contributed to the drafting of this report, and takes this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mrs Claire Bonnenfant Papy, who unwittingly gave this study new impetus.

What mysteries lie in the plants which contain narcotic substances? With what powers are they invested? What solace, what prodigious solutions do they provide? Exactly what effects do they produce? These and as many other questions are asked by those unfamiliar with drugs but avid for knowledge. The cautious abstain, the more curious venture to try, and some never cease.

The intensive consumption of drugs, a scourge, is an aspect of 20th-century life which follows its socioeconomic development closely. Some experienced observers see therein "the expression of social stagnation," the "generation gap," "a form of challenge," "rejection of the capitalist society," "the unhealthy culmination of the consumer philosophy," etc. Everything or almost everything has been said about the increasing flow of drug traffic, the most profitable of all the international businesses. "Freud along with Marx," the "libido" on an equal footing with "the class struggle," the two have sometimes served simultaneously--and still do--as tools of analysis. Meanwhile, the flourishing market in drugs has not ceased to grow and develop.

Incapable of mimicry because they are estranged, various social groups consciously or unconsciously fall prey to drugs--intellectuals or illiterates, the unemployed or active workers, members of the bourgeoisie or the proletariat --what social strata can claim to be free of the grip of drugs?

The use of drugs on an international scale, and the expansion therein in particular since the beginning of the 20th century, are only when all is said and done one of the "secondary reactions" of the society of the industrial revolution and the discovery of the steam engine, the colonial era, the discovery of what has come to be conventionally called today the Third World by Europe because of its power, have effectively influenced the development of the opium poppy, Indian hemp, catechu, etc. They provide an inexhaustible market for them.

The golden triangle--a never-ending source of foreign exchange with mysteries in no way inferior to those of the Bermuda triangle--was built on the "wrecked lives of young convicts."

What Indian Hemp Is

Cannabis, commonly called Indian hemp, "kif" in Morocco, and "takrira" in Tunisia, is a plant which may reach a height of two and a half to three meters. According to the Larousse Encyclopedia, hemp is a "plant with a palmate leaf, cultivated for its stalk, which supplies an excellent textile fiber, and for its seeds, which yield an oil (family Cannabinaceae). Indian hemp is a variety from which a preparation (hashish) causing a euphoric drunkenness is derived. Manila hemp is the textile fiber which the abaca, the Philippine hemp, yields.

Volume 18 of the Universal Encyclopedia (p 351) says that "hemp is an annual plant . . . common in all regions of the world except Australia."

Its biology and characteristics change however from one latitude to another, "such that one can distinguish between the textile hemp of the temperate climates and the resinous hemp . . . of the tropical and sub-tropical countries . . . " Mr Lennenberger explains in "The Magic of Drugs" that "the female flowers of the Indian hemp, on slender filaments, exude resinous matter. It is this which contains the hallucinogenic substance which is smoked, eaten or drunk in Africa, Asia (hashish) and America (marijuana)."

Farther on we will see that in Morocco, Indian hemp is found in various forms--the stalk (kif), powder (chiira), slabs (chiite), etc.

Cannabis, Indian hemp or "kif" was thought to be a relatively safe product in comparison to other narcotics such as heroin, opium and LSD. However it appears that in recent times, experts, in the Soviet Union in particular, have begun to see a higher danger level than the first assessments indicated. Cannabis is on the list of narcotics covered by international conventions and is thus subject to international control. However an exception is made for certain countries which are authorized to produce and consume cannabis for non-medical purposes. This, it is explained in the compendium of "Drug Statistics for 1966" published by the drug control body in Geneva, is because of reservations set forth in Article 45 of the 1961 convention.

The other authorizations are limited to scientific research needs and therapeutic purposes. The use of cannabis for non-medical purposes was estimated at 16,365 kilograms for Bangladesh and 188,545 kilograms for India, which figure includes 13,262 kilograms consumed in Bangladesh, and 175,028 kilograms consumed in India. However, it is the illicit consumption of narcotics which has not yet been controlled and which is constantly gaining ground. Tolerance of cultivators of cannabis by governments for reasons both economic and political substantially hinders the efforts of international bodies. Numerous countries, and Morocco is one, either do not submit their reports on the cultivation and use of cannabis in their countries regularly or do not do so at all. The only countries which reported the production of cannabis "for scientific research purposes" to the international bodies in 1976, according to the compendium of "Drug Statistics for 1976," were France and the United States.

Cannabis falls in the category of drugs which do not appear to produce true addiction. The dependence it develops is basically psychological. Its influence on "very weak and poorly structured personalities" is to be feared. The reaction of the individual using Indian hemp varies, in the opinion of experts, from one individual to another, according to his physical and psychological predisposition. The individual's environment weighs heavily, and contrary to what is believed it has no aphrodisiac effect. The euphoria it produces is evidenced over a time varying with the individual, his predispositions as well as the quantity and quality of the product consumed. Because of the desire to repeat the experience of pleasure, Indian hemp consumption is continued until a real taste for it is acquired, and abandoning its use then becomes difficult, but not impossible.

H. Luenberger states that Indian hemp "erases" any concept of time and space. He reports moreover that "in 1896, a viscous oil, called cannabiniol, was extracted from hashish . . . in 1933, another substance was successfully isolated, called cannabidiol, with effects resembling those of alcohol and atropine."

In addition to developing hunger and hindering the production of saliva in sufficient quantities (internal reactions to the drug) Indian hemp produces other apparent evidences, such as accelerated respiration and dilation of the pupils. "When Indian hemp of good quality is smoked, it provides strange sensations: a sweet euphoria, very often with noisy hilarity marking the beginning of the experience, followed by major alterations in perception (mainly visual and auditory), as well as sudden seizures of anxiety and depression, remarkable deterioration of the memory, attacks of paranoia and sometimes even temporary forms of psychosis. The individual is incapable of sustained activity, is suggestible and almost devoid of will. Finally he 'comes down,' grows drowsy and then falls asleep ..." A number of researchers report that Baudelaire, Moreau de Tour and Theophile Gautier were users of cannabis and left accounts of the effects of the drug.

One of the few serious and sufficiently well-documented studies of kif in Morocco establishes the cultivation of it as beginning in the last decade of the 19th century. This study says that kif has been known in Morocco since the seventh century, but that government recognition of its cultivation did not however occur, apparently, until toward 1890, when the sultan had to grant "several douars, five in all, to the Ktama and the Bni Khaled. Where the Ktama were concerned, the douars given this preference were those in Greha, in the Amzez valley, and in Bni Aissi, in the Ras Sra valley."

It should be remembered that the inaccuracy of the available figures is an almost constant factor in the search for data. This hindrance was to weigh heavily upon the work of G. Maurer in 1968.

Eleven years later, this difficulty is still encountered. In our survey, we found that the cultivation of kif in Morocco is a subject discussed with apprehension and hesitation, and some individuals give the impression it is a taboo subject, such that its real characteristics, i.e. socioeconomic, are obscured. In the reports and documents classified as confidential (?), it appears as if the authors were not aware of the real proportions of the problem or did not wish to acknowledge it.

Despite these obstacles, we can state that the upsurge in kif cultivation in Morocco began during this century. In his supplementary thesis, Maurer linked the notable development of this cultivation with the major political crises at times when the weakening of central authority was evident. Thus the first substantial expansion of cultivation is reported between the years 1910 and 1920, a period of troubles and anarchy characterized by the establishment of the protectorate system, followed by the division of

Morocco between France and Spain, as well as the revolt provoked by the arrival in Morocco of the first French troops. This was to be followed by a slowdown in the 1920s, which many researchers attribute to the strong authority of Abdelkrim Khattabi.

The only expansion noted during his reign, involving the Talarouak section of the Bni Saddate, coincided with the crushing of the Rif uprising by the Franco-Spanish coalition in 1926, when the danger posed by Abdelkrim Khattabi was dispelled by the deployment of vast forces.

"A very clear resumption occurred beginning in 1930 for a number of reasons," Maurer wrote. "First of all, cultivation in the French protectorate zone was prohibited by decree in 1932, following the international agreement on narcotics signed by Morocco. Only a few producers, under very strict Tobacco Administration control, received authorization. But Spain did not sign these agreements and cultivation continued without restriction in the Spanish protectorate zone, strengthened by the possibility of profitable smuggling into the French protectorate." The civil war in Spain, which was then the administering power in the northern part of Morocco, provided an opportunity for the peasants, hard-pressed by their harsh environment, to turn without restriction to the cultivation of kif.

Thus although such cultivation was known in Morocco in the seventh century, it is of relatively recent importance and does not involve the deep-rooted ancestral tradition as is the case in a number of countries. Purely economic dictates seem to lie at the base of this cultivation in Morocco. Peasants suffering almost 365 days a year from the terrain and climate profited from every possible opportunity to raise a crop prohibited by law, rejected by morality and condemned by the international community.

In the explanatory note accompanying the map of market garden and industrial crops in Morocco, Mrs Claire Papy Bonnenfant ascribed the development of kif cultivation in Morocco in part to European demand, and to the 19th-century poets, among other things.

The 1954 decree prohibiting the cultivation and sale of kif, which was extended to the northern zone in 1970, in no way weakened the extent of the activity. An unenviable geographic situation, despite the splendid beauty of the landscape, the harsh climate and poor soil resistant to efforts to convert to other crops forced the authorities to tolerate what the legislators had prohibited.

The Duel With Nature

"Cold winters, often too wet, are followed by short, hot and dry summers." This statement to be found in the geography books summarizes the climatic conditions of a region in which brutal precipitation lasts for days and weeks each winter. "In Ktama (the kif capital, right or wrong) 1,702 millimeters of rain fell on 17 consecutive days in the winter of 1962-1963, with

totals exceeding 100 millimeters for 8 days. It was then that masses of surface soil washed away from the slopes, the flood waters in the ravines washed away the banks and the bridges, and communications were interrupted. Even when it does not rain in winter, the cloud cover is often very low and the mountains are bathed in great humidity."

The harsh cold of the winter, which plunges movement in the region into semi-paralysis, as we had moreover been warned, tested our endurance, both physical and moral, during our trip. As we traveled from Bab Berred to Chaouen, a young man apparently very familiar with the region told us of his first venture into the "hemp country." "I had nothing to protect me from the cold. The rain never ceased its assault on the landscape. I was on foot on the top of a cliff. I still had three kilometers to travel to reach the encampment. I told myself that my calvary would end there. The path was downhill and the mud reached my ankles. It was slippery underfoot and I could barely stay upright. My companion was a mountain man, who was little bothered by the cold. He was moreover well equipped for it, but despite the one of his three cloaks which he had given me, I was freezing. My teeth were chattering and I was shivering all over. Suddenly and unwittingly I began to cry. Earlier I had smoked a few 'joints,' and I could feel the effects mounting in a wave to my head. The sky was very cloudy and despite the hour, around noon, the day was dark. Fear seized my whole being and I began to have doubts about my companion. I suspected all sorts of traps. A trace of regret crossed my mind before rapidly being transformed into self-pity. I went so far as to regret having been born." Following his baptism, this man became accustomed to the region and was fleeing the snow which covers the country every winter above the 700- to 800-meter level, a factor in life and an objective ally.

The terrain is difficult, with deep valleys, tracks pitching down from the mountain heights, dwarf shrubs scattered on the ground, isolated encampments distant one from the other, narrow roads with sharp turns and steep grades, people with curious glances, but easy to approach--these make up a fascinating landscape which the legends told abroad and the harsh quality of life have endowed with a tinge of mystery. Mediocre soil contributes greatly to the economic difficulties of the region. Nature's relentlessness toward man is, on the other hand, the peasant's real ally, teaching him how to frustrate the obstacles devised by the police.

The population of the region was assessed at 96,835 inhabitants in 1960, with a demographic growth rate of 3 percent. Thus today, with a Berber majority, it would be about 122,000. Maurer reports that the Rhomara, one of the three main components of the Rif population (along with the Senhaja and the Zenete), is one of the most ancient groups in Morocco.

The isolation factor imposed by the geographic environment has a visible effect on the complicated social organization, serving to render tribal rivalries complex. They are overseen however by the Jemaa Council, which represents the authority and serves more or less as an arbitrator among the

clans. Still today, traces of tradition remain. Throughout the centuries, the Rif peoples, isolated in the valleys, have escaped any continuing control by the central authorities. "Assiba" (anarchy) found a favorable medium in these mountains during the years preceding the establishment of the Moroccan protectorate.

It was these same peoples who found themselves on Abdelkrim's side in the Rif war.

It was precisely under the authority of Abdelkrim, according to a number of researchers interested in the Rif area, either because of its geography or its history, that the traditional organization was affected by a number of changes which caused it to lose its initial aspect. The modernization of the administration which came about under Abdelkrim's government was completed under the Spanish protectorate.

After independence was won and the northern and southern zones were unified, a new administrative organization became applicable to the entire country in 1949.

Thus it was in a region disadvantaged at the outset by nature and affected by numerous socio-political upsets in less than a quarter of a century that, when independence dawned, the problem of economic conversion required for the future by the international agreements signed by Morocco arose.

But how could 3,000 hectares of poor land scattered throughout the valleys and difficult to cultivate be converted? The areas under cultivation, moreover, cannot be accurately surveyed because they are clandestine. The contradictions in available data make an estimate of areas difficult.

It is in this region and around Ktama, in a parallelogram described by El Hoceima, Tetouan, Larache, Ouezzane, Fes, and Taza, and back again to El Hoceima, that illicit Indian hemp traffic was to be established and spread gradually following the emergence of an international drug traffic network (or networks). This is evidenced by the trial now in progress before the special court of justice and the FNULAD report on the intensification of this kind of activity.

As the years passed, small plots ranging from one to five hectares in size became the destination for the pilgrimages of traffickers of every sort, not excluding the amateurs, entirely unconcerned, who generally allowed themselves stupidly to be caught on the main route 39 and secondary route 302.

The Heart of the Kif Country

It was a little past 1700 hours on a Thursday in January when we reached our destination--Essaguene (Ketama). It is a small isolated village on the road between Fes and Chaouen, but it has two hotels and, of course, in

its market, its tiny shops, Moorish cafes and all around, it goes without saying, the houses. The fate of Essaguene, were it not for the cultivation of Indian hemp, would not be hard to imagine--a little settlement important only as a stop for vehicles making the run from Fes and Tetouan through Chaouen.

Instead it is today, along with Ketama Talta, at the heart of an infernal circle wherein the perfection of the international organization of world smuggling vies for first place with the vast facilities (planes, zodiacs) used in the undertaking. Less important traffickers also find the source of supply here. A month never passes but that the news agencies report the arrest of two Europeans for possession of "chiira" from Morocco.

It was 1700 hours and the sun had just completed its "landing." The village was slipping imperceptibly into darkness and the outline of the moon made its appearance on the other side of a sky which was clear, contrary to the general rule. The heavy silence of the winter night, hardly disturbed by a breath of wind, had already settled on the village. Occasional groups of young men scattered along the main road watched the arriving vehicles discreetly, alert for a potential customer.

Some 600 to 800 meters of asphalt road, bounded on one side by assorted shops and Moorish cafes, and on the other by a line of trees concealing the stretch of fields ending farther on at the Rif mountains constitute the main features of the center of the village. The mercury must have been near zero that day and the first waves of cold entering the body of the car heated by human warmth, after the long trip, were painful to the senses.

A young man who must have been about 17 years of age offered us his services, and showed us a hotel of acceptable status, somewhat surprising to find in so small a settlement. Farther on was another, belonging to a national chain. In the few hundred meters we had to travel to the hotel, our young escort offered us "chiite" and then asked us to spend the night at his house. Along the way, other young men presented themselves with similar proposals.

In the hotel lobby, where there was a counter serving both as a bar and a reception desk, a pair of tourists were occupied with the rolling of a "joint," bathed in the filtered light to which the last rays of daylight added a bit. The presence of these tourists disturbed the restful hibernation of the region. However, this false note was necessary to the decor provided by the people of the "interior," and confirmed by the spectacle of daily life in these intriguing mountains, caught unawares. Except for the handling of stored kif and its infiltration into other zones, inactivity prevailed everywhere. The fields were deserted, abandoned to weeds, awaiting the planting season.

It was 2300 hours when pounding was heard on the door. It was our young escort. Since only residents were allowed in the building, he explained,

he had had to sneak up one of the hotel stairways. He had a proposal which, in all logic, should interest us.

After listing all of the sad characteristics describing his associates, who, he said, were swindlers, profiteers and opportunists, he stressed that drug trafficking is an art and involves a sacred contract, he listed all the incomparable virtues of his merchandise, and before we had time to say a word, proceeded to the demonstration stage. Apparently unconcerned about what our viewpoint might be, he set to work and carefully, revealing the agility of his fingers, expertly fashioned a "joint," while explaining to us that he was a professional and could tell who would be a serious customer, one precisely with whom a sacred contract was possible. He even confided in us, as soon as he had reached the stage of confidences, that the greater part of his customers were foreigners who came direct to him from France, England and Holland because of the quality of his work. The list of his professional qualifications only ended with the completion of the "joint." Courteously he offered his "creation" to us, claiming that it would take us straight to paradise. The argument seemed inconsistent and decided us to decline the gracious invitation of our interlocutor. The prospect of a non-stop flight to heaven and the fear that we would stay there permanently confirmed our negative decision. The fear which had seized us and accompanied us throughout our trip would occupy our minds for quite a while. We were forced to realize that this was due to the tales, stories and legends which make of this region a world apart. This fear which we were to attempt to rid ourselves of gradually was even more of a concern since it represented a prejudice difficult to control and a serious handicap to our contact with people as well as our perception of reality.

Sayings and proverbs soon transformed into axioms are still to be heard and contribute greatly to maintaining the prejudice which still remains in the thinking of the majority of society concerning a region and a population which, whatever one might say, are really no different from the other regions of Morocco, except for minor discrepancies in traditions and language.

This tacit quarantine resulting from the concept of the "useful Morocco and the useless Morocco" persists and substantially hinders the efforts to integrate the region into the legal economy.

Because There Is Nothing to Do

As midnight struck the village generator ceased to function. The temperature of the room dropped perceptibly, and gradually the cold settled in. The only blankets we had were thin and entirely inadequate for our needs. The cold which made our bodies suffer began to wear our patience down.

At 0300 hours, the room was frigid and the thermometer seemed to take evil delight in dropping below a tolerable level: zero degrees on the Reichter scale. We were very close to the point of regretting bitterly that we had not stayed at home safe and sound. As best we could we survived until the

dawn of a day which promised to be difficult. Apart from fatigue following a restless night, a glacial cold had replaced the temperature of the evening before which had already been intolerable. Our suitcase was small and what we had brought with us proved inadequate. Still we were happy to have that. It was market day, and although we reached the street at a late hour, no special movement distinguished that day of the week from others. It is always thus, it appeared, in winter. The distance and the isolation, supported by the cold, create a practically insuperable obstacle. On the streets leading to the market, a few peasants riding mules or on foot, silent and gazing into the distance, went by, little concerned that we were there. The groups of young men, who had doubled in number since the night before, watched us pass, seemingly hesitant to approach. We could barely hear the tentative proposals they called out from the doorways and the trees.

"Make joint?" The voice came from a courtyard we were passing. Our gaze fell on a man nearing 30 dressed in a very loose velvet jacket with a rabbit fur collar and jeans held up by a belt with a buckle bearing the poison symbol and the pirate flag. A pair of brown leather boots, obviously imported, came up to his knees, completing the effect of a character in a bad Western film. He gave us a standard smile featuring a row of regular teeth, unfortunately stained with nicotine and tar. With a gesture of the hand he invited us to join him on the cafe terrace.

There were circles under his red, moist eyes, so that his paleness went almost unnoticed. His encampment was in the upper valley of the Azez. That area alone accounts for a quarter of the area in chief cultivation. A privileged zone, it ranks above Abdelrhaia in the Ras Sra valley, which qualifies as the "second specialized sector." The Bni Khaled only ranks third, ahead of the Bni Saddat.

Our host of the moment apparently spoke French and English well, managed well enough in Spanish and knew some German. What a multilingual fellow! His half-Arabic, half-French conversation bristled with foreign words in the two languages, as a consequence of his subject.

At 1100 hours our interlocutor was apparently on a level somewhere above the surface of the earth. This should not have surprised us especially, as we had seen individuals in that condition at 0700 hours in Bab Barrad.

"Watch out for the little puppies!" he began by saying, warning us against a group of young men in search of a "pigeon to pluck." In his outburst of benevolence with regard to us, our "professional guide" of the evening before was now revealed to us by our new adviser as a "petty errand boy," a youth whose social and economic role was limited to the help he gave his parents during periods of farm activity.

"But why not?" our interlocutor went on, substituting paternalism for his disdain. Why were these young people doing their apprenticeship in this

business, he seemed to be asking before he delivered this pronouncement: "Because--nada (nothing)--to do!" Indeed linguistic internationalism has many advantages, one of them being release from grammatical limitations, but we had to register surprise before we understood that what this mixture of terms meant was that there was nothing else to do. He explained to us then that in just a few weeks he would return to his land. The planting season was approaching. Meantime, like the rest of the population in the region, he was living off the stocks of kif.

It was at this season of freezing cold that groups of three, four, or at a maximum seven persons, carrying substantial quantities of "chiira," take to the road for the main urban centers, transit points for other regions of the country.

Fes, Tatouan, Nador, Ouazzane, and Ksar Lakbir, to mention only a few, are the favorite destinations of the hemp traffickers.

[24 Mar 79, p 6]

[Text] Everything the Earth Yields Is Good

Choosing the proper moment is of key importance to the dealer. Success in his work depends on this sense of timing. A bad choice, a false move, and it inevitably means prison. The movement of the police throughout the region is watched with care. Lookouts are spotted in various places to watch the movement of units of gendarmes. In case of danger, the whispered warning is passed along.

The dealers prefer the glacial cold and the tortuous terrain of the countryside to the police. On foot through the mountains, carrying dozens of kilograms of the "goods," sleeping during a part of the day and moving at night, they travel dozens, indeed hundreds of kilometers to reach Fes, Ouazzane, Tatouan or other cities.

Despite all of these precautions, police roadblocks set up in the mountains and ambushes are only sometimes avoided. The risks remain and the unexpected lurks the length of the route. It is a veritable duel waged between the drug traffickers and the representatives of authority. It often happens that police brigades act on tips received, just as it often happens that the smuggler is in collusion with one of them. The complicity of certain officials with the drug traffickers does not however protect them against "disastrous encounters." The dealers are always in danger of encountering another roadblock in the next settlement.

The dealers prefer organized evasion to confrontation. To begin with, the dealers try to escape with the goods. If the police ambush proves effective, the next thing is to save one's skin. Every man for himself, to meet again at the destination. Taking to their heels, the dealers flee in all directions. Pursuing them would be like trying to catch fish with the bare hands, if a pleonasm can be excused.

The route became increasingly difficult, seeming always to stretch farther ahead. A few drops of rain began to fall. The cloud cover in the sky became steadily denser, foretelling the advent of real rain. Our route was long. Our escort kept several meters ahead of us, advancing with a firm step. He knew the area, every corner, and claimed he could even tell if a stone concealed a scorpion or not. "Try to establish some reference point," he told us. This will aid you to come without a guide next time." This was something of which we were hardly certain. From the top of the cliff overlooking the valley, he pointed to show us a shelter the dealers had established. "It's no good any more. The police found it." There was a time when armed dealers did not hesitate to fire at the police. The latter had to respond with vigor to put an end to this threat to the exercise of their duties. In fact, this did not take long. It appeared we were in for a compulsory session of skiing. The imperturbable weather pursued its course steadily, and still the encampment was no closer, or at least so it seemed to us. The persistent downpour worried us seriously. Our reading of Maurer had informed us that the rain can last for days, and we were beginning to think about the return to Essaguene before we had even reached the encampment. We had to admit that this too was a part of our task, but there was nothing to do. We were no farther along than before.

The encampment first appeared like a mirage, even before our host had confirmed what we thought was a hallucination. Our reaction at sighting the encampment had the dramatic aspect of the sighting of land emerging from the water by shipwrecked persons who have bobbed for days on the surface of the sea, when they had almost given up hope. On reflecting today, this reaction appears to us exaggerated and overdrawn. On the personal level, this forced march was for us a tool for proper measurement of the calvary through which the dealers suffer.

Of all the aspects we had studied before the survey, that pertaining to the attitude of the peasants toward the cultivation of kif was the most interesting. To live "outside the law" on a daily basis, to adapt one's behavior to the demands of secrecy, to sit at the table knowing that all thereon is the product of violation of a law, to go to the fields to harvest in the expectation of a raid by brigades of the Tobacco Administration or the police, to go home at night to bed with the possibility of a search always present--in a word, to pursue the daily routine of life while being aware that one is only free provisionally--this must develop a type of individual of a sort quite different from the ordinary mortal. Mistrustful because guilty, aggressive because defensive and viciously clever because of living in a treacherous environment--this is the impression we obtained of the kif-growers. There was no dividing line in our minds between the trafficker whom we saw in our imaginations in the most revolting scenes of banditry, and growers of kif in the best sense of the term, living like everyone else from our mother the earth, and they seemed to us one.

Whether the peasant was a native of Bni Smih, Bni Khaled, Bni Sadat, Ketama, Bni Gmil, Mtiousa or Bni Ahmed, the attitude was the same. Kif is a "gift

of the earth," and should be regarded as such. A peasant we talked to could not have been much past 40. However, he was the father of a large family. There were 10 in all, with the parents, and as such consistent with the general rule. One aspect however distinguished this peasant from the others. Like many of his generation, he had tried emigration for a long period, and regretted having just missed the "Stoleru million." Despite the distance from his homeland and the difficulties of all sorts experienced in Europe, there was a tinge of nostalgia for his life "over there" in the picture he painted for us in a perfect monotone. After a long interval, he returned to the subject. "We have seen a dozen experts of all races (in Arabic, "gnouss") parade before us. The soil refuses to grow anything but kif. They want us to abandon it? No objections! But let them offer us a livelihood to replace it."

Now as we have already said, the tolerance of the state is explained by the difficulties of economic conversion. The campaigns to destroy the crop pursued from time to time by the Tobacco Administration, for example, are dictated by security needs and timely political-economic considerations. Doing the best it can, the Tobacco Administration which suffers heavy losses because of the cultivation of kif destroys a small part of the harvest and intimidates the peasants. However it cannot even hope, much less dare, to wage total war on these plantings. The same is the case for the specialized police and militia departments, which cannot effectively suppress illegal traffic in kif so long as the source of supply does not shrink.

The figures announced for the destruction campaign pursued in the period between 1955 and 1965, and the alternating direction of the graphic curve, clearly reveal the sporadic and intermittent nature of the campaign pursued against the cultivation of kif.

It is in any case a waste of time to think of the resolution of the problem in short- or medium-range terms. Hundreds, indeed thousands, of families live in the semi-secrecy of this illegal production, with the chronic risk of finding themselves suddenly in the grip of the law. It is surprising moreover to note with what simplicity the people in the region discuss the sentencing of one individual or another in their circle to a prison term. We were surprised to hear a passenger in the vehicle taking us from Fes to Ketama tell the person sitting beside him that so-and-so was in prison, while his listener did not even ask why, eager though we were to know.

Meanwhile, a tray of tea, honey and butter and a basket of bread had been offered. In a ritual gesture, our host filled our glasses for the second time. "Do you think that this situation suits us?" he asked. "Of course there are those who find pleasure in the situation even if it is not satisfactory." The dogged resignation of the majority for whom the cultivation of kif is the only possible livelihood is very obvious.

"The international traffic which has become a part of an already complicated situation is a factor of temptation and corruption," a lawyer practicing in

Rabat told us. "The income in solid foreign currency provided by foreign clients serves in the end to frustrate the mechanisms for suppression, substituting for it its own organization and upsetting the planned programs for limiting cultivation as a first stage in economic conversion. The establishment of a network for distributing the harvest on a market as vast as it is inexhaustible--in the trial being heard by the special court of justice it was possible to establish that among the items taken from the defendants were radio transmitting apparatus, inflatable vessels, air and maritime transport facilities, among other things--as well as a processing industry are other factors which defeat the efforts of the state."

Our host, with increasing courtesy and hospitality, invited us to stay to dinner. Seemingly the discussion interested him and he was "finally in the company of people who could understand," he explained to prove to us that we were in no way inconveniencing him. Put in this flattering fashion, the invitation was hard to refuse and even seemed a pleasurable prospect. Our host bore the marks of his stay in Europe, and was visibly inclined toward dialog. Unwittingly he shared the point of view of the FNULADE. "The profitability of kif-raising is difficult to match with another crop," he said, "and the people have acquired the habit."

This is a "habit" still further intensified because with a double demand--both local and foreign--there is a limited but nonetheless substantial area expanding production in order to "survive" (this is Maurer's term) under difficult conditions of life. Ranging from 1,000 to 1,400 kilograms per hectare, which is about 1,500 to 2,000 mechnum, the yield is regarded as high.

At the end of August and the beginning of September intensive activities take over the upper central Rif region. This is the time of year when despite the heat, the entire family is in the field. An alarm system is set up on the mountain tops to warn against any possible raid by the police or the brigades of the Tobacco Administration. Often when these occur the men disappear into the wilds, and only the women and children are to be found in the settlements. Then any efforts to learn where the men have gone are in vain. The total but friendly and hospitable silence of the women is a rule observed with the greatest strictness.

"In the harvesting, long stalks reaching an average height of 1.50 meters are cut with a sickle and left in the fields two days to dry."

They are then arranged and stacked in machoum (bundles). Indian hemp is marketed in two ways, depending on demand: either in bulk (kif stalks destined above all for the domestic market), or processing on the spot to convert the flowering stalks into a fine powder. "It is the ends of the female branches which are used. The pulverized leaves and inflorescences yield the powder which is smoked in a mixture with tobacco. They are sold by the bunch, or machmoum. The 'chiira' comes from the resins secreted by the bristles." The goods for import to other countries, thus treated, are normally marketed in the form of a powder.

On the local market level, there are two possible choices for the retail seller (above all in the city). He can rely on a dealer, taking delivery at home and paying the transportation costs calculated as a percentage of the risks run. It is more economical but more risky to take delivery at the "factory."

The final operation in the processing of "chiira" involves pressing the heated powder to obtain the "chiite." It is the flowering extremities "which produce a rich and alkaloid resin" from the chiite, being crushed by means of a mill and then pounded on a fabric of tight weave to attain a fine powder, "chiira." It is then, by means of a modern press (in the large organizations) heated and compressed with an oil, an operation which yields a tablet which is blackish and pliable--signs of quality.

In international dealing, a ton of "chiira" costs 600,000 dirhams. On the domestic level, the price is about double. Contrary to the estimates by Mrs Claire Bonnenfant Papy in "Market Garden and Industrial Crops" a kilogram of kif costs 15 dirhams and not 2.40, and a kilo of "chiira" costs 600 dirhams (instead of 2500). On the local market it costs 1200 dirhams direct from the source or 1700 dirhams from a dealer.

On the retail level, the price may reach 2000 dirhams, excluding handling by middlemen between the peasants and the consumer, for "chiira" to which henna, for more weight, and concentrated milk to give it the smoothness of good quality, and the paste "solution" to offset the loss of effect due to these changes, have been added.

5157
CSO: 5300

MOROCCO

DOCTORAL THESIS ON DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTH OF CASABLANCA REPORTED

Rabat L'OPINION in French 23 Mar 79 p 4

[Text] Mr Touhami Mekki has just defended a major doctoral thesis entitled "A Contribution to the Study of Drug Abuse Among the Youth of Casablanca." "For a long time," Dr Touhami writes in the introduction, "man has sought to increase his pleasure and to assuage his discomfort . . .

"The traditional drugs used in certain regions of the world are beginning to spread elsewhere. This is the case for example with cannabis . . . " And it was to Casablanca, which is currently the largest city in Morocco, that Mr Touhami Mekki went to do his research.

"The rapid spread of the city," he reports, "has so profoundly disturbed the conditions of traditional life that it has provoked or aggravated a certain number of scourges, some affecting the body, and others mental and moral."

Drug abuse, he goes on to explain, is among the scourges, one which continues to be fearsome because of its rapid spread among the popular strata and its nefarious consequences.

Three questions, three answers. One cannot summarize the work which Dr Touhami has done, with careful, detailed consideration of all the factors, in any better fashion.

"Who are these young people who abuse drugs, why do they do so and what has been done and what should be done to prevent it?" These are the three questions which Touhami Mekki posed and attempted to answer in his thesis, which, following that by Dr Alami M. entitled "Cannabis Psychoses in Morocco," will because of its inestimable value be of great help to all of those who want to know more about this tale, faithful to sensation, called the world of drugs.

We will return to this subject later on.

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SOUTH AFRICA

ADDICTION STATISTICS RELEASED, ANTIDRUG STRATEGY URGED

Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 23 Mar 79 p 9

[Article by Wilma Rudman: "Working Out New Methods Against Drugs"--Marihuana More in Demand Among Adults"]

[Text] "It is time that a new strategy is worked out for combating the use of addictive substances. The methods which we are now using are not having the desired results for combating their use."

This was the statement made by Dr Sylvain de Miranda, chief of the clinic services of Phoenix House in Auckland Park, Johannesburg, as a result of the statistics released in Parliament Wednesday by Minister of Statistics Hennie Smit.

According to the statistics the number of people who have been imprisoned for selling, possessing or using addictive substances increased during the last 6 months of last year. Figures show that twice as many adults are drug users than youngsters under 21 and that the number of blacks using marihuana is higher than that of the other population groups.

Dr da Miranda stated that more adults are smoking marihuana than youths, because they started to do so at an age between 15 and 17 and have continued the habit. Young children are smoking marihuana because this is "the-in-stuff."

One reason marihuana is being smoked is that people cannot cope with their tensions and some smoke it because it helps to cope with tensions. Tension is caused by factors within a person and also by environmental factors such as poverty, hunger and unhappy married life.

The popularity of marihuana stems mainly from the fact that it is easily obtainable and it is cheap. This is also why such a large number of blacks have been arrested for violating the law.

According to Dr da Miranda the effects of marihuana on a person can be of short- or long-term duration. A short term effect, for example, is that a person's mental reactions are slowed down and he can start giggling.

Aggressive

As for long-term effects, marihuana can result in amnesia and even mental disorder. Marihuana taken together with alcohol renders a person aggressive.

Treatment is effective in most cases if it is conducted over a long-term basis and includes intensive care. Post treatment care after release from an institution is also very important for effective recovery, according to Dr da Miranda.

Yesterday Gen F. S. Zietsman, the chief of the Narcotics Bureau in Pretoria, stated that he could not provide any comments on the statistics without having comparative statistics. He said that the present statistics are still too incomplete for making such a comparison.

7964
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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

EXTENT, EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE IN FRG OUTLINED

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 24 Mar 79 p 13

[Article by Karl-Otto Sattler: "Two Million Addicts in Germany"]

[Text] Many of the children who come to the Caritas Special Clinic in Neuenkirchen near Oldenburg suffer from stuttering, stomach ulcers, chronic nailbiting and a variety of psychosomatic disturbances. The cause of all these problems: destruction of emotional family relations due to drug addiction of one parent. Such families are frequently nothing more than a facade concealing social distress and emotional disturbance. Social workers, physicians and psychologists of the Neuenkirchen Special Clinic try to help the children and their families. An effort is made to reestablish communication between the children and their drug addict fathers or mothers. This is no small task, inasmuch as the children in many cases bear feelings of hatred toward their parents, while at the same time needing warmth and security. The task of the health professionals is to stabilize and strengthen the childrens' personalities to keep them from being destroyed by their families' psychological disturbances caused by addictive problems.

This therapy is known as Family Therapy for Drug Dependence. Another cause: working parents. One of the Caritas drug counseling services in Hofheim (Taunus) conducts workshops for parents of addicted children. In cooperation with social workers, efforts are made to discover the causes leading to addiction. This frequently results in treatment for the parents, because drug use in children is frequently caused by family situations. Impaired family relations are to be "cured" by means of an often difficult learning process and painful self-recognition, which are necessary to enable the children to reestablish their position within the home.

In Hennef and Essen, Caritas attempts to include the spouses of addicts in the latters' treatment. Joint "marital seminars," conducted on weekends or throughout an entire week are designed to reestablish relationships between the spouses. Frequently such discussions generate in addicts a motivation to seek and endure long-term treatment. This has an even better chance of success if the spouse agrees to participate. The wives of addicted husbands are particularly anxious to participate actively in their husbands' course of

therapy, which may include self-prescribed abstinence from alcohol. This readiness to help one's partner, according to Caritas experience, is found to a much lesser degree in husbands of addicted women.

Marital seminars, parents' working groups, child therapy--these are a few examples of family therapy in addictive diseases.

During the Fourth Caritas Social Therapy Week in Freiburg, about 200 social workers, physicians and psychologists visited the Breisgau city for a whole week to discuss this subject and to give new impetus to family therapy. As far as Caritas is concerned, family therapy is an indispensable necessity to help drug addicts with any promise of success and to avoid raising a new generation of addicts.

Caritas emphasizes the fact that while addiction has been determined by indisputable scientific findings essentially to be caused by disturbed interpersonal relationships, the danger of addiction is on the other hand a type of "self-perpetuating family illness." Children lack security, are unable to satisfy their emotional requirements, suffer the consequences of father's or mother's addiction; in desperation, they themselves have recourse to the bottle, to the tranquilizer, to narcotics. Not infrequently drug dependence fully emerges only when young people have become young adults. Caritas studies in 1978 show that about one-third of cases of addiction occurs in families where interpersonal relationships have already been damaged by a case of drug dependence.

Caritas estimates that there are about 2 million addicts in the FRG--people who are hooked on alcohol, drugs or narcotics. These figures are based on surveys conducted by opinion research institutes and on data and experience factors accumulated by the Catholic charitable organization itself. No exact statistical computations are available on this subject; estimates are about all one can depend on. However, the figures estimated by Caritas are considered to be very dependable.

According to Caritas, these 2 million drug abusers break down into about 1.2 million alcoholics; about 700,000 use medicinal drugs, and about 80,000 are drug addicts, with heroin being the major factor. Caritas' observations show that during recent years the number of female addicts has made a quantum leap: In 1967, drug dependent women were 8 percent of the total; in 1971, 16 percent; in 1974, 22 percent and last year drug addicts were 29 percent female. Those addicted to medicinal drugs: include an especially great number of women. According to Caritas, 60 percent of that group are female. And it is primarily this type of drug abuse that is spreading the fastest, as was pointed out at the Freiburg Social Therapy Week. The number of young people among addicts is, however, relatively small: only about 4 percent are under 18 years of age. But we must bear in mind that drug dependence frequently does not fully manifest itself prior to adulthood.

Caritas data show that of the estimated 2 million addicts about half no longer have any ties with parents or a spouse; they are single, separated, divorced or widowed. However, about 1 million addicts still maintain those relationships; Caritas estimates that there are 3 million relatives--fathers, mothers, spouses and children, who live and suffer with the addicts.

Caritas is convinced that in that type of family in particular individual therapy of addicts must be supplemented with family therapy if there is to be a hope of effectively combating the disease and if there is to be a chance of destroying the vicious circle of disturbed interpersonal relationships as both cause and consequence of drug addiction. The organizers of the Freiburg Social Therapy Week regard the experience to date with marital seminars, parents' working groups and child therapy, as for instance in vacation programs, to be encouraging and promising of success.

On the other hand, the Freiburg meeting found to its dismay that up to the present family therapy is practiced in only about 10 percent of special clinics and drug counseling facilities. Caritas blames this lack of progressive treatment in most hospitals and dispensaries on insufficient training of social workers, physicians and psychologists, who have inadequate or no preparation for the practice of family therapy.

At the same time, the complaint was made during the Freiburg Social Therapy Week that there are still difficulties in financing family therapy. Such treatment is not necessarily doomed by a lack of funds; charitable organizations frequently help out in this respect. But, as a rule, the national health insurance pays for a stay in a special clinic for only up to 1 year, while outpatient therapy is usually excluded from cost reimbursement.

9273
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ITALY

PROBLEMS OF DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS DISCUSSED

Milan L'UNITA in Italian 26 Feb 79, 5, 12 Mar 79

[Article by L'UNITA correspondent Jenner Meletti]

[26 Feb 79, p 9]

[Excerpts] Ravenna--The drug addicts number a little over 200 and at the CMAS (the medical and welfare center established, as in other cities, in application of Law No 685) they are almost all known. The relationship between the center and the addicts is not an easy one. This is because, for the past year and a half, the CMAS no longer has been distributing methadone, a highly narcotic drug which is supposed to be used in decreasing doses in the process of detoxication, in order to avoid the withdrawal crisis, but which in practice has become a permanent substitute for heroin or other hard drugs.

The use of this substance is being discussed vehemently. Not all the centers, it should be noted, think the same way. The choices are not absolutely clear cut, not even on the regional level. The "Committee for the Prevention of Drug Addiction" of Emilia-Romagna, for instance, in a recent document noted the "persistent and increasing diversity of approach between the presidents and the health services of the region on the use of methadone and of the other morphine-like substitute drugs" and it asked the centers to use this drug only in cases of emergency (acute withdrawal crises) and then in graduated doses for a maximum period of 21 days.

In Ravenna, the choice of suspending methadone has been anticipated for over a year. "It has been difficult to begin," says Dr Ilich Rossi, the head of the CMAS, "and it is difficult to continue; but what can be the use of detoxifying a young person from heroin by making him at the same time become a methadone addict?"

In Ravenna, the distribution of hard drugs has reached the districts of the outskirts of the city. The youngest drug addicts are 13 and they began to take drugs immediately with heroin. The oldest ones are about 30 and they form a separate group. They are specialists in smoking and acid,

amphetamines and opiates. They have been, the majority of them, in prison and in hospitals to look for ways to break their addiction or to cure themselves of viral hepatitis. Now they have four or five fixes a day, spending about 100,000 lire.

Last year, six of them died. Two died in prison: the first one from an overdose, with heroin which arrived in his cell inside a walnut; the other one had put his head inside a plastic bag to get high on butane gas from the gas bottle which the prisoners use to heat a little food.

The decision to suspend the use of methadone was made jointly with the addicts. There were months of discussion, of long meetings. "We want them," says Dr Giovanni Cortesi, another director of CMAS, "to tell us themselves that methadone was as bad as heroin and that the phial or the syrup distributed by the center made it possible for them to avoid having recourse to the clandestine market (at least in part) but did not start any process of detoxification."

A project has been prepared, which was studied jointly with the addicts, to build an environment which would provide a support system for those who intend to break out of the oppression of drugs. Considering that many of them had had scholastic experience, even if limited, in trade schools (mosaics and ceramics especially), it was decided to build a laboratory, to set up a craft activity. Real interest had been created for the project and for 2 months nobody had requested methadone nor had injected themselves with heroin.

There were delays, however, in arranging the laboratory structure and within the space of a few months the interest in the project dropped, the group of addicts stopped being a community and each of them started to seek at an individual level the solution to their own problems and to their suffering.

Now, at the center, they return almost exclusively for health reasons. They have themselves taken to the hospital for phlebitis or hepatitis contracted from using infected syringes, which they pass back to one another after having licked the needle clean. There are also those who try to detoxify themselves and who find help and assistance at the center. It is not just a few who succeed in becoming unaddicted. The percentage, with respect to the total of drug addicts, remains about 10 percent. But in their place arrive new recruits, especially during the last few months, from the working-class districts of the city. The dealer--a young drug addict tells us--as soon as he knows someone is trying to break the habit, goes to the addict's house and leaves the little envelope of heroin on his bedside table. He gives it to him, because he does not want to lose his customer and the temptation is strong when one feels bad and it is enough to have a fix to stop suffering.

The market in Ravenna has various outlets. From those organized on a major scale to those small but numerous ones which compose a network which is

difficult to root out. The route from the port goes to the heart of the city and a sailor can come ashore at any point, deliver the goods and return on his ship without any check on him.

The most intense drug circuit is around San Francisco Square, in the center of the city. It is in this square, next to Dante's tomb, that the addicts meet to buy their envelope and to be together. The police raids have served up to now only to catch the small dealers and to fill the prisons with drug addicts. Last August, there were in jail 25 addicts out of a total of 35 prisoners. The ones who are at the head of the market up to now have not been arrested.

A few dozen meters from this square, where in the evening many young men and women prostitute themselves to be able to buy heroin or LSD, the CMAS is setting up a support center for drug addicts. The premises are already prepared, on the site of the former Charity Institution and they are being furnished right now. There will be two bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom and other premises for activities which will be decided by the addicts themselves. The initial project was decided upon a year ago jointly with them but it was not carried out because of bureaucratic delays. Now it is necessary to wait for a group to be formed, to identify the interests which can help the young people to free themselves from drugs, or at least to suffer less from their consequences.

[5 Mar 79, p 3]

[Text] Genoa--First of all, the figures: 1 dead in 1975, 5 in 1976, 7 in 1977, 11 in 1978. The tragic escalation of drugs in Liguria has struck especially its chief town, Genoa, with 20 dead during the last 4 years. In the city, there are 1,300 of the 1,700 drug addicts of the region; they use primarily heroin and methadone. The heroin arrives mostly from the port, but also from inland, following routes which are different every day, organized by national and international dealers. The methadone, after the ministerial decree of last August, is instead being distributed by the "anti-drug centers," which is the concise term used for the "five centers for drug addicts," set up in Genoa in January 1977 under Law 685.

"We are trying to create gradual programs," says one of the doctors at a center, "that is to say, we decrease day by day the dose of methadone distributed to the addicts who come to us. This succeeds, however, only in a few cases, where there is a real will, by the young person, to become unaddicted. Usually, on the contrary, the addict comes to tell us that the dose was not sufficient, that he had to also have a fix of heroin and then we go back to the initial dosage. Here in Genoa, there is a difficult situation, our antidrug centers have inherited some of the previous mistakes. We agree that methadone does not end drug addiction, but how can we suspend it without creating anything that can help those who want to withdraw from drugs? Not to distribute methadone would mean today to put the addict back in the hands of the dealer."

Methadone, in Genoa, had begun to be distributed by the center on Cesarea St, which was built by the previous council in 1974. It distributed methadone to the addicts, but also to other young people. Many of the current addicts have stated that they began to take drugs by going to take methadone on Cesarea St.

The Black Market

Almost like heroin, methadone also has had a black market. The phials available at no cost or bought with a doctor's prescription (before the decree of last August) in a drug store, had reached very high proportions. A box with five phials, which cost 400 lire, was resold at 30,000 or 40,000 lire. A doctor actually prescribed 40 phials per day for a single one of his patients.

Thus at the centers, since the beginning months of their operation, methadone has been supplied only in syrup form, to be consumed in the distribution centers near the hospitals at the moment of delivery. The change from the phial (which allows the addict to maintain the rite of the fix) to syrup has been accepted only after many conflicts. Today, the clash has moved to a new level; a group of addicts, comprised of radicals and elements of the extreme left, requests in fact self-administration of methadone and in order to obtain it, often bursts into the centers threatening the employees.

The "profession" of those who are employed at the centers (they are doctors, sociologists, psychologists and social workers) is not easy. "The drug addict who comes to us is looking for a solution to all his problems. If he does not get along with his employer, his parents, his friends, he wants us to give him the answers. He identifies us with his mother's breast and he wants to be breast-fed with methadone."

A difficult relationship is created between employee and addict and often the employee does not succeed in convincing himself that he is doing useful work, he finds himself too isolated and he feels weighing on him responsibilities which he cannot face alone. During the last 2 years, as a consequence of this uneasiness, 12 out of 17 workers at the centers in Genoa have handed in their resignation.

During the next few days, on the basis of a plan arranged by the province, the centers will be joined to the other structures of the local health units. "It is an important step," says the provincial health magistrate, Lamberto Cavallin, "toward taking the drug problem from the isolation in which it is confined and making it become a subject of interest, of struggle, not limited only to those 'professionally involved.'" "Meetings with magistrates, the police, doctors were held and on paper all were in agreement in seeking a common line of action: in fact, however, each group acts for its own purposes, often with contradictory results."

The one who gains, obviously, is the one who runs the drug market. "Good" heroin in Genoa costs from 30,000 to 40,000 lire per dose and there are many addicts who have four or five fixes a day, spending up to 200,000 lire.

A Pyramid

The market structure is a sort of pyramid, where the one who is on top speculates on the others. The addict who buys a few grams of heroin, for instance, keeps part for himself and with the other he makes up little envelopes for the other addicts. The percentage of heroin, in this case, is drastically reduced. For the novices, there are for sale envelopes where the heroin does not reach 5 percent and which have a market price never below 10,000 lire. In this fashion, the addict with greater experience in the market can manage to make others pay for the heroin he consumes.

The dealers, furthermore, also try to hook those addicts who are participating in the antidrug centers. "The fact is particularly serious," says a doctor who works at a center, "because it is dangerous to consume, in a short space of time, both methadone and heroin. The first, in fact, inhibits the effect of the second, and then the addict, to obtain the effect desired, must increase the dose, risking an overdose and collapse. If a young person, moreover, takes methadone over a certain period of time, his body shows less tolerance toward heroin. And even in this case, if he decides suddenly to have a fix with a dose of heroin, in quantities equal to those which he was accustomed, he risks collapse." These are problems which do not interest the dealers, of course, and the number of dead last year demonstrates this.

As in other regions, in Liguria, too, there are springing up communities organized by the Catholics to aid drug addicts. There are already some in Borzoli (Genoa) and in Tigullio. In Chiavari, there is a religious institution with which the region is trying to set up, through an agreement, a center for aid to people on the fringe of society, "that is to say, young people in trouble."

On the first two communities, the judgments are contrasting. They are seen by the employees at the centers as more like an escape from reality than an attempt to resolve the problems.

"They are, however, the only place," says the regional health magistrate, Comrade Francesco Busso, "where at least for now, a drug addict, here in Genoa, can find a bed and somebody to give him a hand. It is an incentive addressed also to the local governments, which must seek new forms to help the drug addicts."

[12 Mar 79, p 3]

[Text] Turin--In the community of Rivalta Torinese, the young people raise rabbits and cultivate flowers in a greenhouse. This year, they planted

70,000 gladioli. When bad weather prevents working in the country, they work leather and other skins. In the community of Murisengo, they produce instead cheese (with the milk of 16 cows) and honey. The two communities were organized, together with others, by the "Abele" group which was established in Turin 13 years ago by young people who wanted to be "at the side of those on the fringes of society."

Communities of various types (therapeutic, open, closed) have been springing up during the last few months in almost all the regions of the north and the center of Italy. A census is difficult, also because almost half of them fail after a few months of activity.

According to the Abele group, these days some 10 communities are active in Piedmont, 15 in Lombardy, 12 in Venetia, 4 in the Trentino, 2 in Liguria, 5 in Emilia, 6 in Tuscany, 3 in the Marches. In the other regions, there is just one or no community. The guests of these organizations are young people on the fringes of society and particularly drug addicts. The organizers are mostly priests or groups of volunteers of Catholic inspiration.

The Abele group was the first to start the experience of the community, 10 years ago. "Our communities," says Father Luigi Ciotti, the coordinator of the group, "almost like the work cooperatives which we organize, are small alternatives to alienation, which have value when they are part of a broader plan, of a promise of justice and solidarity. Otherwise, they are only stopgaps. It is not possible to think of confronting the problem of drug addicts by building so many happy islands, however alienated and alienating."

In the Abele group, 60 young people work full time ("Before certain situations one cannot say: we will see each other tonight, when I have finished work") and another 50 conscientious objectors in civil service. Most of them live in the Piedmont communities or in the work cooperatives. The relationship between these volunteers and their guests is, in the community, one to one. Each community has its rules, resulting from experiences which are different from each other. Just one firm point: the community means "sharing life on an equalitarian basis," and "an alternative with respect to the existential models considered the norm."

Work is a fundamental component of the therapeutic activity. "The agricultural community," says one of the workers of Murisengo, "does not mean an idyllic place among the flowers, pure air, etc. It means fatigue, it means schedules, coordination of work, sometimes repetitiveness. The methods are decided jointly, each one is responsible for a part, but fixed roles do not exist." Physical activity allows the young person who wants to become free of drug addiction to make himself the protagonist of his own body. In the community, however, work is not compulsory, either for the guest who does not feel like it, or for the worker who decides that that day it is more important to stay with the friend in crisis than to work in the fields.

Only in a few cases does the community manage to reach economic self-sufficiency. "Besides," says Father Ciotti, "one cannot demand a full working efficiency from a young person who, for instance, has been addicted for years to heroin or alcohol."

All the communities of the Abele group reject the use both of hard drugs and soft ones. "Not because we believe that smoking hashish or marijuana is dangerous, but because it is an attempt at escape from problems which must nevertheless be confronted." For the same reason, in one of the communities they imposed upon themselves a rule not to drink even wine, at least not "regularly." Coming out of the problem of heroin, many young people became hooked on alcohol, risking going from one addiction to another.

Not all the members of the communities work within them. After the work inside, many seek an activity outside the community but continue to hang around it as a "place of support." Others go from a country community to a city one. In Turin, the Abele group has organized lodging communities and work cooperatives. One of these runs a pizzeria, another is building educational games. In some cases, the young people who manage to become free of drugs remain in the community as volunteers. Close to the community of Murisengo, moreover, a school has opened, defined as "a street university," where former addicts, together with experts and students, take periodic courses for workers employed by the local government and volunteers.

In its confrontations with the public sector, the Abele group wants to have the function of serving to stimulate and collaborate. "We do not want to substitute ourselves for the institution," says Father Ciotti, "but only to seek solutions to problems which exist. We held a hunger strike in 1975 to get a new law on drugs and we opened a center to help drug addicts even though the old law prohibited it. When the law was approved, our center was closed, inasmuch as it had lost its function as a stimulus and denunciation. Ours is a pioneering task: We seek, that is, to occupy those spaces on which we want society as a whole to intervene. This is the role of the volunteer, an unfortunate expression to indicate, simply, a citizen who expresses his social concern."

"With the Abele group," says Comrade Rosalba Molineri, the magistrate for the Municipality of Turin for social services and health, "we work in a relationship of collaboration. The experiment made by the group, especially in the field of drug addictions--for instance--was very useful to us in the organization of the five centers of assistance to drug addicts opened by the municipality. This type of voluntary service is certainly useful to the public sector, because of the seriousness of the work which it involves. In some cases, as in a town, we send young men into the community, as part of a family, paying their share of the groceries." The municipal administration of Turin has also begun the implementation of its own structures, to aid alienated young people, the handicapped, the aged, and minors with no family. Eleven lodging communities were opened for this purpose. There are also close contacts with another priest, Father Isidoro, who after an

experience in the Abele group, organized two communities for young people. The same priest was assigned as an adviser to one of the centers for aid to drug addicts.

"The local government," says Comrade Molineri, "can collaborate actively with the groups of volunteers when it knows the seriousness of such groups, their social and cultural commitment. It is necessary, moreover, that the structures which are prepared be an integral part of a district, that is, that they be in close contact with the population and connected to the network of social and health services by the same public sector."

The distinction is certainly not superfluous. The very fact that almost half the communities are forced to close after a few months of operation demonstrates how dilettantism and carelessness are very characteristic of them, when, probably in good faith, they decide suddenly to "help drug addicts" or other alienated young people. The existing communities, as we have said, are of various types. Groups of drug addicts have formed self-governing communities with the aim not of becoming unaddicted but of obtaining, as in Genoa, a "guaranteed distribution" of methadone or of some other narcotic. In this case, the local government is identified as the opposition, either because it has blocked the distribution of methadone in the help centers or because, naturally, it does not allow self-management of methadone itself.

Other communities are organized on principles which are completely different, if not opposite, from those which inspire the structures of the Abele group. In these communities, managed mostly by monks, drug addiction is equated to a sin to be expiated. The young addict is therefore shut up within the structure, also in this case it is often an agricultural community and he is obligated to work, which is understood as redemption. From cleaning toilets he moves day by day to more noble work, as long as he had not demonstrated he is worthy of a return to normal life.

The "therapy" has its own logic, which has already been used for centuries in the "institutions" for the unfit. It does not succeed however, even today, in removing any of those causes which push a young person to escape reality with drugs.

8956
CSO: 5300

NORWAY

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL VOWS FIGHT AGAINST DRUG DEALERS

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 19 Apr 79 p 56

/Report on interview with Magnar Flornes, attorney general, by Odd Bergfald, date and place not given/

[Text] Attorney General to Take Stronger Measures Against Spread of Narcotics

We may have roughly 5,000 drug addicts in Norway. They are young people of 13-14 years and up to about 35 years. It has been maintained that a few of our drug addicts who are on heroin have a narcotics need which costs them up to 2,000 kroner a day. It has been estimated that 2 million kroner worth of drugs are being traded daily in this country! It is a well-known fact that heroin is being sold in Norway, but the attorney general has now been informed that cocaine will be "entering the market."

The minister of social affairs and the minister of justice have set up an emergency committee composed of undersecretaries who, in the course of a few weeks, will submit a proposal for an emergency solution to the problem.

What is the prosecuting authority, our new attorney general, Magnar Flornes' view of the problem? Does he find the maximum and minimum penalties for the narcotics users and dealers severe enough? A supreme court attorney has proposed the death penalty for people who make fortunes by leading our youth into the hell of the narcotics world. Does the attorney general agree to such a proposal?

Attorney General Magnar Flornes starts an interview with AFTENPOSTEN on the prosecuting authority's view of the narcotics problem with the following words:

[Answer] We may ask ourselves the following question: Why do we not have a penalty for the sale of alcohol? Alcohol abuse is a serious problem as well. We accept the sale of alcohol, but we are extremely restrictive when it comes to the marketing and illegal use of narcotics. In this connection, I always keep in mind the words of our foremost opponent of narcotics abuse, the former minister of health, Karl Evang: "We have had to accept alcohol. But there is a limit to what we can accept. We must not end up accepting narcotics!"

[Question] What steps can the prosecuting authority take in an effort to stop a further spread of narcotics?

[Answer] What we can do is limited, but we must definitely participate in taking a position. We can use the penalty actions to which we have access. When the evil started, we began modestly--with the link we got hold of, the user. They were the ones we saw, they were the ones we knew about, and it was these users and the small dealers we got hold of, but we did not manage to contain the more professional distributors. However, in the enforcement of the law, there has been a gradual change, and we have become increasingly more interested in and adept at seizing the distributors, the importers and the organizers. We have, to an increasing extent, succeeded in arresting distributors, couriers, etc., but as yet not the important men behind the traffic.

More Severe Measures Against Organizers of Narcotics Traffic

[Question] What do you mean by "men behind the traffic?"

[Answer] Primarily, the international organizations, those who finance the whole thing and make fortunes on the traffic. At the same time, they are at a safe distance from the distributors and, usually, outside the reach of the law enforcement authorities. This change in the attitude of the law enforcement authorities, of shifting the emphasis from the users to the narcotics dealers has been a conscious policy on the part of the legislative and law enforcing authorities. We got the more severe penalties which are incorporated in section 14 of the criminal code, which deals with generally dangerous and serious crimes, such as arson with intent to kill. These in themselves are clear directives on the part of the legislative authorities.

[Question] The rest of us in the society--the ordinary man in the street--are probably of the opinion that the law enforcement in respect of the "men behind the traffic" is somewhat inadequate. We feel quite simply that the organizers, to a far too great extent, are allowed to get off scot-free.

[Answer] It is, of course, understandable that the public will feel that way, but you ought to know that it is extremely difficult to get hold of the organizers. The users became victims, they became the ones actually offended in the narcotics cases. The dealers went scot-free to a far too great extent. As we have been intensifying the fight against the evil of narcotics, we have been gratified to experience a unanimous support on the part of the political authorities and the public in respect of the extraordinary measures we felt had to be implemented. I have in mind such measures as the access to use wire-tapping in special cases. But such steps are only taken when other measures give no solution.

More Lenient Attitude Towards Users

[Question] What position and which guidelines have the law enforcing authorities adopted today in respect of investigation of and law enforcement in narcotics cases?

[Answer] As already indicated, we have primarily wanted to adopt a somewhat more lenient attitude towards the victims. This attitude we will continue to have towards the users, provided there is some kind of treatment center which can take care of them. When it comes to the actual organizers, whom I suppose we have not yet seen a glimpse of, we will strike as hard as we can if we discover them. They are the ones we must, first and foremost, fight. A strong line has, moreover, been adopted towards importers, couriers, and other professional distributors.

[Question] You talk about a "more lenient line" towards the users--the actual victims. Do you think that it will become necessary to commit the addicts to treatment and rehabilitation centers?

[Answer] This may indeed become necessary. In principle, I have no special hesitation in that respect. But, for the time being, it is probably more a question of resources available to the health and social welfare authorities. It is both a question of placement in the treatment centers and treatment expertise, as pointed out by the city medical officer, Fredrik Mellbye, in a recent article in AFTENPOSTEN.

Against Death Penalty

[Question] There are a few who want to introduce the death penalty for such people as the distributors--the organizers of the narcotics traffic, those who make fortunes on the distress of their fellow men. A Norwegian supreme court attorney has publicly stated that it is his honest opinion that the death penalty ought to be introduced for narcotics dealers. As the attorney general of our country, do you agree with such a proposal?

[Answer] In principle, I am against the death penalty for all forms of crime in times of peace, and I cannot depart from this view in narcotics cases either.

[Question] The provisions of the penal code give access to sentences of up to ten years for import of narcotics. Do you think that this is enough?

[Answer] If the big organizers are apprehended, they will usually be guilty of more than one offence under section 162 of the penal code, and in that case, the term of imprisonment may be increased by one half beyond the maximum penalty of 10 years, thus a maximum of 15 years. I do not find that there is any urgent need at the moment to raise the maximum penalty. The most severe sentences so far have been of nine and ten years imprisonment.

We have all the time been talking about the prosecuting authority, its activity and view of the narcotics evil, but I would also like to draw the attention to something else. We must not forget the cooperation we have had with the social services in fighting narcotics addiction. If we are to have any hopes of carrying through what I call a more lenient line towards the narcotics victims, the social institutions will have to get more into the picture.

We must also intensify our cooperation with the customs authorities and the postal authorities. As far as I am able to judge the situation, these authorities have made an excellent contribution. But we may be able to do even more together. As far as the police is concerned, I want to emphasize that an excellent cooperation already exists between the police and the prosecuting authorities in the Nordic countries. I believe we may go as far as to say that, on the big international level, we have come a long way in our cooperation against the narcotics evil.

[Question] Do you think that it is now heroin which is making its entry into the Norwegian narcotics market?

[Answer] Definitely. It is terrifying to think of it. The victims began with the weaker drugs, but heroin is now being sold also in our country. We did not manage to prevent an increase in the heroin traffic from 1977 and up till today. Like everybody else, I see in this a considerable element of danger, and cocaine is now also supposed to be on its way into the country.

[Question] It has been asserted that a few narcotics addicts have a need for narcotics costing them 2,000 kroner a day. What is your impression of this claim?

[Answer] We do not yet know for certain what an ordinary daily need costs an addict. It probably varies quite a lot. But I believe that there are a few who may have a daily need, the cost of which runs into 2,000 kroner. This, too, shows that narcotics crimes are among the most serious evils we have to fight. We cannot disregard the fact that there is a clear connection between narcotics abuse and crimes for profit, the purpose of which is to obtain money for drugs. This we now wish to examine more closely, and, if possible, we shall get this mapped out. It is a question of crimes such as robberies, burglaries and frauds, but probably also crimes of violence.

Eight Narcotics Deaths So Far

So far, this year, narcotics abuse has taken the lives of eight young people in this country, seven of which in Oslo. During the whole year of 1978, eighteen deaths were recorded as being directly caused by narcotics abuse. The statistics do not show how many deaths are caused indirectly by narcotics abuse. The figures of the police show that narcotics abuse is on the increase and that an increasing number of young narcotics addicts are changing to harder drugs, such as morphine pills and heroin. The police, moreover, have been warned that cocaine is on its way into the country.

Cocaine is a narcotic substance which has not been recorded in Norway previously, at any rate, not since the wave of narcotics hit the country in the late sixties. Cocaine, which is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant, causes a very rapid addiction, and abusers need increasingly larger doses. Hallucinations and delusions follow in the wake of cocaine abuse,

The abuser will, for example, feel a very strong and intense itching all over his body.

So far it is thus heroin and morphine pills, the so-called "pak-biter," which dominate among the hard drugs in Oslo. Ole Mathisen, division chief of the narcotics division of the Oslo police department, states that, during the first three months of this year, 408 reports were received, an increase nearly twice the increase of the first quarter of last year. So far this year, 115 options of a fine in lieu of prosecution have been issued for narcotics offences, and, in addition, 70 persons have been sentenced for narcotics crimes. The figures show an increase both in the quantities of drugs confiscated and in the number of reports received.

[Question] Is this due to increased efforts on the part of the police or has the narcotics abuse increased considerably?

[Answer] I believe it is due to a combination of things. It is clear that increased efforts on the part of the police with actions on the part of patrolmen in narcotics environments have contributed to an increase in the number of reports received, but I am afraid that the abuse of drugs, unfortunately, also has increased. During the first quarter of this year, 387 persons were apprehended for involvement with narcotics, while the corresponding figure for the same period of last year was 165.

[Question] Business people at Egertorvet complain of drug addicts hanging out in that area, and the public feels insecure in the places where drug addicts aggregate. Is too little being done on the part of the police?

[Answer] Personally, I think that this is a problem which should be dealt with by the uniformed police, and their activity has also increased. The increase in the statistics of the number of persons apprehended goes to show this. With the manpower available to the narcotics police, we cannot deal with the lesser users; it is those who are behind the narcotics traffic whom we must try to get hold of. But it is clear that our people as well will observe what is going on in these environments.

[Question] It has been promised that the narcotics department will be expanded?

[Answer] The first stage of the expansion will take place after Easter. To begin with, the staff will be increased from 38 to 50 men, and this includes management, investigation and undercover agents. The expansion furthermore necessitates an increase in the technical equipment, and this is under preparation.

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NORWAY

POLICE RIGHT TO INFILTRATE DRUG GANGS IS TRIAL ISSUE

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 19 Apr 79 p 10

[Text] The question of infiltration and use of provocation in narcotics investigation was the central issue in the trial which started yesterday in the City Court of Oslo, involving a 26-year-old Oslo resident who is charged with extensive street trafficking of hashish. The man pleaded not guilty on the charge of selling 200 grams of hashish, as he claimed that it was the police investigator who arrested him who had asked him to get him the said quantity of hashish.

The police officer denied, however, that the sale had taken place in that way. He pointed out that he had been offered the said drug, and that, in accordance with the usual practice in narcotics investigations, he had accepted the offer in order to disclose as much as possible about the traffic.

On 23 January of this year, the police officer was beckoned into an entrance-way in Karl Johans Street, where he was offered hashish by the accused. He bought 2 grams and stated that he was surprised that the accused did not recognize him as a member of the narcotics police.

I was completely flabbergasted when he then asked me if I was interested in several hectograms of the drug, the police officer told the court.

He then went home with the accused and, later on, to a flat in Sagene, where a third person had the quantity of hashish of approximately 200 grams. Here he took action and arrested both of them.

The counsel appearing for the 26-year-old defendant, Superior Court Attorney Eystein Wiggen, demanded that the accused be acquitted on this count as it was not clear whether the police officer had asked for more hashish, or whether the defendant himself had offered to procure more of it.

If the police officer asked him to procure more hashish for him, it is a question of a provocation. He is not permitted to encourage a crime; on the contrary, it is his duty to prevent or hinder it from taking place, Wiggen said.

The counsel for the prosecution, Karl Johan Wiese, pointed out that there was no doubt in this hashish sale, and called attention to the police officer's statement that the accused had, on his own initiative, signalled him to enter the entranceway in order to sell hashish and had later on offered a larger quantity.

This is a difficult case for the police, and it is clear that they must be able to use infiltration to get to the drug. It is no provocation for the officer to follow up the offer in this way and to get it out in the open, in the present case 200 grams of hashish, he said.

The counsel for the prosecution demanded that the defendant be sentenced to one year's imprisonment, whereas the counsel for the defense asked for acquittal, also on a number of the other counts of the charge, stating that the imprisonment should be limited to between four and six months. He, furthermore, requested that the defendant be allowed to serve his sentence in a drug rehabilitation institute.

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SPAIN

POLICE ARREST NORWEGIAN WITH NINE KILOS OF HASHISH

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 17 Apr 79 p 29

[Text] A 20-year-old boy from Kragere is in prison in Spain where a fortnight ago he was arrested in the customs department with over nine kilos of hashish. The boy was apprehended at the ferry berth when he arrived in a rented car from Tangier in Morocco. The Norwegian vice consul in Algeciras, Juhan Bengochea Bamonde, has informed AFTENPOSTEN that the customs officers, no doubt, had been warned in advance by the authorities in Morocco.

The 20-year-old boy was in Tangier together with another Norwegian, but he was in another car and did not have any narcotics on him when later on he was checked by the Spanish police. The 20-year-old boy has denied the charge and has maintained to the police that others must have placed the hashish in the rented car he was driving.

The Spanish authorities take a very stern view of narcotics smuggling, and people who are caught with more than one kilo of hashish are very seldom released on bail.

In this case it will be necessary to find bail for him in the amount of 1 million pesetas, or approximately 70,000 kroner, if there is to be any possibility of getting the Norwegian released. Spain, moreover, has extremely severe sentences for smuggling of narcotics, and people have been sentenced to a term of four years imprisonment for smuggling of two kilos of hashish.

The Norwegian vice consul has stated that the embassy has arranged the services of a lawyer for the boy from Kragere, and that they will do everything possible to help him. It is expected that he will be transferred, in the course of the next few days, to the prison in the provincial capital of Cadiz, where his case will be tried.

Moroccans selling narcotics to foreigners often inform the authorities of their country, who, in turn, pass on the information to the customs officers

of the country to which the buyers are going. The vice consul is of the opinion that this was the way the customs officers in Algeciras got to know about the said quantity of 9.1 kilos of hashish. It is not clear if the drug was intended for resale in Norway. The boy who was caught had been staying on Costa de Sola in Spain for a couple of months while the Norwegian with whom he was together in Tangier has been living in Spain for a fairly long time.

The Norwegian vice consul has not been permitted to visit the 20-year-old boy in the prison in Algeciras, but the boy got the opportunity to call home so that the Norwegian embassy in Madrid could be informed through the Foreign Ministry.

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UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

HEROIN CACHE SEIZED--Nearly 9 lbs of heroin worth 2 million pounds sterling at street prices was seized tonight when customs officers swooped on a Mercedes car being driven ashore at Harwich. The car, which had arrived by ferry from the Hook of Holland, was intercepted as a result of a tip. The drug was "professionally concealed," said a customs spokesman. A number of men were helping customs inquiries in London. The haul is believed to be linked with the find of three kilos of heroin two months ago, in unaccompanied baggage arriving at London's Heathrow airport from Ankara. "We believe they are part of a large-scale international operation, and inquiries are continuing in the UK and various countries which we can't name, said the spokesman. The customs spokesman said later that women as well as men were helping inquiries. [London Press Association in English 2110 GMT 3 May 79 LD]

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